

## October 2010 SCS Safety Newsletter

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### **2010 Safety Inspection Summary:**

The 2010 laboratory safety inspections for Chemistry and Chemical Engineering have been completed. Thank you to lab personnel for their cooperation during safety inspections. Forty-six research groups were inspected (14 Chemical Engineering and 32 Chemistry).

Overall, the inspection results were respectable. The violations noted most often include: housekeeping issues (cluttered aisles, benchtops, fume hoods, etc.), missing or inaccurate jerrican waste log sheets, and lab safety manuals missing lab specific information and/or documentation of lab specific training. Additionally, not wearing proper personal protective equipment (safety glasses, lab coats, etc.) and/or wearing inappropriate lab attire (shorts, sandals, etc.) were also common violations.

### **Lab Specific Procedures and Documentation:**

In addition to School of Chemical Sciences safety policies and documents, research groups should develop and maintain lab specific safety procedures. These lab specific procedures should be filed with other safety documents, including the SCS Chemical Hygiene Plan. The SCS Chemical Hygiene Plan states, "This Chemical Hygiene Plan is tailored specifically for the School of Chemical Sciences and not necessarily for all the people working in these buildings. This document is to suffice as a general document only. Specific hazards should be addressed in additional Plans."

Lab specific safety procedures could include, equipment use and shutdown procedures, SDS use, work with lasers or radioactivity, work with highly toxic or dangerous biological or chemical reagents, etc. Some research groups have already developed group specific procedure manuals that are given to new group members upon their arrival to the group. Development of this type of manual by all SCS research groups is encouraged. In addition to developing and providing lab specific procedures to group members, individuals should also be trained on these procedures and this training must be documented. The training can be documented by maintaining a log sheet that each group member must sign and date affirming that they “have read, understood, and received appropriate training on the safety procedures for Professor (PI’s name) group”.