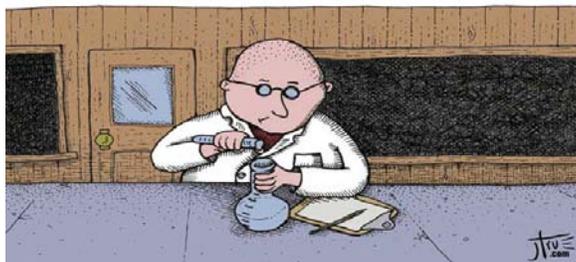


February 2010 SCS Safety Newsletter

Topics in this issue:

- **Laboratory Fume Hoods**
- **2010 SCS Chemical Hygiene Plan**

He discovers the element of surprise...



http://www.jtrue.com/cartoons/art/low/element_of_surprise.jpg

Laboratory Fume Hoods:

Laboratory fume hoods should be used when chemicals being handled have sufficient volatility to be hazardous or offensive if vented to the laboratory atmosphere. Highly toxic chemicals should only be used in a laboratory fume hood. Highly toxic chemicals are those with a PEL (permissible exposure limit) of 50ppm or less. Chemical characteristics which should be considered are toxicity, flash point, flammability, and odor.

The laboratory fume hood sash should be positioned so that work is performed by extending the arms under or around the sash, placing the head in front of the sash, and keeping the glass between the worker and the chemical source. The worker should view the procedure through the glass, which will act as a primary barrier if a spill, splash, or explosion should occur. The hood sash should be maintained at the indicated mark for proper flow. **Additionally, hood sashes should not be removed from the hood at any time.** Doing so will not allow the hood to work properly and does not allow for a barrier between the worker and chemical source.

Properly using laboratory fume hoods includes maintaining all items in the hood at least six inches behind the sash, placing equipment as far to the back of the hood as practical without blocking the bottom baffle, not storing large equipment in fume hoods, and avoiding the use of hoods for storage.

Airflow should be verified **PRIOR** to starting experiments or commencing work. Check air flow to assure the hood is functioning adequately. Air flow may be checked by the following methods: simple tell-tale device such as a KimWipe, installed hood monitors, hood labels indicating flow, or an anemometer.

2010 SCS Chemical Hygiene Plan:

The 2010 version of the SCS Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) is now available on the web at:
http://safety.scs.illinois.edu/docs/SCS_CHP_2010_final.pdf

The 2010 version includes several updates from the 2008 version. All research groups and other applicable labs should print a copy of the 2010 CHP and file it in the group's safety binder or safety file. CHP versions prior to 2010 should be discarded. The purpose of the CHP is to define work practices and procedures to ensure laboratory workers in the School of Chemical Sciences are protected from health hazards associated with the hazardous materials with which they work. The implementation of the CHP is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Laboratory Standard (29 CFR 1910.1450). In addition to the CHP, groups should develop lab specific procedures and file those procedures along with the CHP.