May 2010 SCS Safety Newsletter

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Personal and Property Safety:

Given the recent number of Crime Alerts sent to the campus community, all employees, students and staff in SCS are encouraged to take personal safety seriously. All SCS employees are to continue safe practices such as being aware of your surroundings and contacting 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone) to report any suspicious behavior or any emergencies, including those that are potentially life threatening.

It is highly recommended SCS laboratory employees NOT work alone in laboratories. A coworker should be present in case an emergency or accident occurs. Even if working with non-hazardous materials, a coworker should be present and available to call emergency response personnel. Accidents and injuries can occur at any time in the laboratory. Personnel working late at night are discouraged from working alone and are strongly advised to keep their work area locked. It is highly recommended no one walk alone on campus at night.

The UIUC Division of Public Safety lists several personal safety tips at the following link: [http://publicsafety.illinois.edu/universitypolice/personalsafetytips.html](http://publicsafety.illinois.edu/universitypolice/personalsafetytips.html)

Thefts often occur on campus as well. It is advised to keep track of your personal belongings at all times and to lock up belongings when unattended. Laptops and other portable electronic devices should be secured with a lock. Offices and labs should not be left unlocked when
vacant. Items of value should be left at home if possible. The Office of Business and Financial Services lists detailed personal property insurance information at the following link in Section 6.1: [http://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/manual/index.html](http://www.obfs.uillinois.edu/manual/index.html)

Section 6.1 specifically states: The University assumes no responsibility for any loss, theft, or damage to an individual's personal property brought onto University premises, or University-leased premises, even if the property is brought to the University to be used in connection with their work. The University carries no insurance to cover any of these losses.

**Jerrican Labeling Requirements:**

The Division of Research Safety has noticed that some SCS Groups are not labeling and/or recording their jerrican waste properly. Jerricans should be used to collect high volume waste (at least 10L or more per year) streams that are not reactive, extremely toxic, or malodorous. Many SCS groups collect non-halogenated and halogenated organic solvent waste streams in jerricans.

Failure to properly label and record jerrican waste contents is a violation of US and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regulations. All jerricans at a minimum should have a generic label on the container such as “halogenated solvent waste”. If a generic label is used a log sheet detailing the contents of the waste must be kept near the container. The log sheet and jerrican must have a unique number or letter that identifies which jerrican belongs with each specific log sheet (for example jerrican NH1-1 must correspond with the log sheet marked NH1-1). The amount and type of waste added to the jerrican must be recorded each time waste is added to the jerrican. For example, if an employee adds 10mL acetone to their waste jerrican, they must record 10mL acetone on the corresponding log sheet. If waste collected in jerricans contains only a few chemicals an appropriate label may be written on the jerrican (i.e. Waste Acetone, Ethanol and Ethyl Acetate).