

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
Edward M. Movitz, Health and Safety Officer
2009 - 2010

DEPARTMENTAL MISSION

To reduce the risk of illness or injury to people who come to the University of Mississippi to work, study, learn or visit, by developing, implementing, enhancing and improving programs that provide training, guidance, technical expertise and support services to all campus activities and programs, while assuring compliance with environmental regulations.

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

To contribute to an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual support for other departments and personnel, to anticipate and respond to the needs of others and to provide quality services in a safe and healthy work environment.

SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING GOALS

No major accidents or injuries involving hazardous materials occurred on the campus. State and Federal Inspectors found no violations during inspections and reviews of this department's procedures, facilities and records. On-site inspections included the Mississippi Department of Health, Division of Radiological Health, the Mississippi IHL, and the Department of Defense.

In addition, our Diving Safety program received full re-accreditation from the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS). Our Facility Safety Plan renewal was approved by the Army Medical Command (MEDCOM), and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC). We also received recertification of our Institutional Biosafety program from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Office of Biotechnology Affairs (OBA).

All current and past inspection records, reports and official responses are available on the Web.

PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

Program modifications, required to maintain continuous compliance with new and modified regulations during this past year, included revisions and additions updates to our Chemical Safety and Scientific Diving Safety manuals and policies. The Chemical Policies now include specific regulations governing the disposal of commercial chemical products, off-specification materials, container

residues, and spill residues. Diving Safety regulations were expanded to regulate Scientific Cave and Cavern Diving, and the use and selection of dive computers.

Lead and mercury waste minimization procedures were expanded to include a thermometer exchange program for the Engineering School, as well as expanding the collection and recycling of potentially hazardous components from equipment repairs and from surplus equipment.

Procedures for purchases of radiological materials and radiation generating devices were standardized to meet the new requirements of Procurement Services, and the regulatory requirements of Health and Safety.

Procedures were standardized with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) to expedite Health and Safety's reviews and approvals of contracts, grants, and research proposals that may be necessary because of the specific nature of the project, as well as the hazardous materials to be used in the project. We worked extensively with the Institutional Animal Care Committee (IACUC) to institute permanent ORSP policies and revised procedures for research protocols utilizing animals and recently isolated compounds that may, or may not, have published toxicological data. We continue to work with University departments, the IACUC, and the ORSP to enhance laboratory safety, standardize security requirements, and streamline personnel training for authorized users of Hazardous Chemicals, and for research involving Biohazardous Materials, Radioactive Materials or Radiation Generating Devices.

Other revised policies included chemical fume hood testing and usage guidelines, campus-wide battery recycling, pathological waste container marking, medical waste packaging requirements, updated procedures shipping hazardous materials to foreign countries, the authorization for the release of confidential medical information forms, as well as and the scheduling of hazardous waste retraining.

The departmental website was converted to the new University format, and all documents, reports, regulations and training materials are available in a standardized format. All departmental forms were updated to include fill-in .pdf form versions, as well as printable forms.

We also worked with the Risk Management Department of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning to provide program support services to several Universities across the State, and, we worked extensively with Student Health Services and the Incident Response Team providing support services during the University response to the Pandemic Flu season.

All staff members maintained advanced certifications from the National Incident

Management System (NIMS), Three staff members received re-certification from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), two recertified with the US Department of Transportation (DOT), and two personnel recertified with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) for the shipping of hazardous materials to foreign countries by air. The Environmental Health and Safety Specialist received certification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA) in Advanced Chemical and Biological Integrated Response.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

There were no personnel changes during the fiscal year.

DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS

Health and Safety trained, tested and certified the following number of personnel in the areas indicated:

- Chemical Safety – 168
- Maintenance Biosafety – 2
- Biosafety & Pathogen Safety – 131
- Radiation Safety for Generating Devices – 3
- Radiation Safety for Radioactive Materials – 18
- Radiation Safety Refresher Courses – 172
- Biosafety for Athletic Assistants - 29

Health and Safety personnel:

- Inspected and certified 12 Steam Autoclaves,
- Inspected 285 Chemical Fume Hoods (main campus & the field station),
- Calibrated and certified Two Radiation monitors,
- Analyzed 1,851 samples for radioactivity (including individual bioassays, surveys and declassification samples),
- Monitored the daily Radiation exposure of 217 Faculty, Staff & Students,
- Responded to three incidents of chemical dumping on the campus,
- Investigated three odor/chemicals/smell complaints, and,
- Responded to nine chemical spills.

Health and Safety shipped:

- 939 drums of hazardous wastes for disposal, including:
 - 831 lbs. of Mixed Radioactive Waste,
 - 19,670 lbs. of Medical or Biologically Hazardous Waste, and,
 - 47,048 lbs. of Hazardous Chemical Waste.
- 77 packages containing hazardous materials throughout the US and to nine foreign countries, and,

- 3,223 pounds of Batteries (Lead Acid, Lithium, Cadmium, Ni-MH) for recycling.

Health and Safety personnel are currently serving on the following University Committees:

- Building Mayors
- Equipment and Property Salvage Committee
- Disaster Resistant University (DRU) Planning Committee
- Diving Control Board (Diving Safety)
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (Hazmat)
- Incident Response Team (IRT)
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)
- Radiation Safety (RSC)
- Staff Council

The Health and Safety Officer was appointed to a three year term on the American Chemical Society's Committee on Chemical Safety and their Chemical Safety Board.

FUTURE GOALS AND PROSPECTS

We will continue to work with departments to reduce the inventories of potentially harmful materials, to decrease or eliminate the long term storage of hazardous materials after research projects are completed, and to increase laboratory safety and security awareness wherever hazardous materials are used or stored.

We will continue our commitment to help the University provide an educational and work environment that is safe, secure, and environmentally friendly.

We will continue to work with City, County and State agencies to assure an effective coordination of personnel, supplies, and responsibilities when responding to Hazardous Materials (HazMat) emergencies.