

April 2007

BIOHAZARD WASTE



CHARGES

Risk Management and Safety has restructured our biohazardous waste vendor pickup schedule. The vendor is now coming every 6 weeks instead of every 5 weeks. This has allowed us to be able to pass on a savings of \$0.50/pound to the generators. The cost for disposal is now \$1.50/pound.

LABEL CONTAINERS

Any containers used in the lab must be labeled with the contents. While doing several lab inspections, Risk Management and Safety personnel have noticed many unlabeled beakers, flasks, sample vials and carboys.

Labeling lab preps as I, II, III, or 1, 2, 3,... does not meet labeling requirements. You have a couple of options for labeling lab preps. Each vial can be labeled with the content name OR if there will be many samples that you will hold in a vial box, you can label the outside of the vial box with the constituents, e.g. preps containing copper salts and leave the vials labeled with the identifying number.

Waste containers must be labeled immediately upon waste being put in the container. A waste container must have the word WASTE and the name of the constituents such as Waste Acetone or Waste Non-Halogenated Solvents.

Waste containers must be capped at all times except when adding waste.

REMINDER:



Applications for Continued Use of Radioactive Material and completed Radioactive Material Inventories are due in the Risk Management and Safety Office by May 1, 2007.

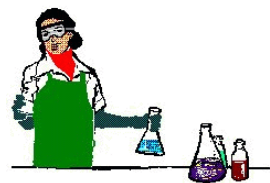
BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS TRAINING

For persons in labs working with blood or bloodborne pathogens, annual blood borne pathogen training is required. If you haven't been trained or your training is out of date, please contact Erin at 1-5037 or Hafner.4@nd.edu to schedule training.



Spotlight on General Lab Practices

There are a number of general safety rules applicable to laboratories that do not fall under any one specific category, so we call these "**General Lab Practices**".



1. **Minimize ALL chemical exposures**--don't think that because one chemical may be less harmful than another, that exposures to these are acceptable.
2. **There should be no eating or drinking in working areas of the laboratories.** Most labs allow this at desks only, and only when the desks are not in the immediate areas of chemical usage. In labs that use radioactive or biohazardous materials, eating and drinking is NOT permitted at all.
3. **Check glassware and equipment before using**, to ensure that they are not cracked or malfunctioning. Damaged items may cause accidents or spills, as well as the loss of your sample and experiment.
4. **Do not work alone with hazardous materials** unless you have received permission from the lab PI to do so. If you must work alone, ensure that there is some mechanism for you to contact help if an accident occurs. Will there be others who could hear you? Stop in to check on you? Call you from time to time?
5. **Consider the hazards inherent in leaving procedures or experiments unattended.** What happens if equipment malfunctions? What if there is a power failure? What if a condenser hose comes loose and volatile solvents are released? What if a fume hood goes down? Be sure that there is a plan to protect people in your area and building if you leave any procedure unattended. If you cannot ensure safety in these situations, you should NOT leave the experiment unattended. When an experiment is left unattended, contact information must be available on the outside of the door or lab information card.
6. **Perform ALL work with volatile materials in a ventilated area** (such as a fume hood or glove box). Do NOT rely on general room ventilation to offer any protection from chemical exposure.
7. **Plan new procedures with safety in mind.** Feel free to contact Risk Management and Safety if you have any questions or concerns about new procedures or use of new chemicals.
8. **Lab workers must wear closed toed shoes in the lab.** With summer approaching, this is a chronic problem. The reason for our concern is 1.) That hazardous chemicals may fall on the unprotected skin, and 2.) That sharps or broken glass, frequently found in labs, can harm the unprotected foot.