

NEED A TRAINING ADVISOR TO HELP DETERMINE WHAT SAFETY COMPLIANCE TRAINING YOU SHOULD TAKE?

EH&S Training and Communications

One of the questions we at EH&S receive most often is "What safety training do I need to take?".

The answer varies depending on the tasks the questioner will be performing, and the environment in which the person works.

We have developed an online, interactive form for answering this question. A new employee (or one changing jobs) with the help of his or her supervisor, can sit down and complete the form. The results of this questionnaire will be sent to the employee and the employee's supervisor.

While trainingadvisor.stanford.edu does not cover local Tier 3 training (training specific only to the local lab or work area), it does cover the whole range of EH&S-provided safety and compliance training.

It remains important for the employee to discuss the results of the questionnaire with his or her supervisor, in order to put together a complete training plan.

All Stanford employees should complete this form upon hiring, and upon changing job functions.

<http://trainingadvisor.stanford.edu>

WOOD BURNING FIREPLACES

Environmental Programs

For the first time in the Bay Area, it is now illegal to burn wood, pellets or manufactured fire

logs on evenings designated as "Spare the Air" Days by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). BAAQMD designates Winter Spare the Air Days when the forecast predicts that airborne particulate matter concentrations may exceed national health-based standards. BAAQMD can issue costly fines to private citizens for non-compliance with these new regulations.

In order to avoid fines and maintain compliance, citizens can call BAAQMD's Spare the Air hotline at 1-877-4NO-BURN or check on line at www.sparetheair.org. BAAQMD also offers an email air alert option. Questions about BAAQMD's new regulations may be directed to Heather Perry at hperry@stanford.edu or 3-1308.

PERSONAL RADIATION MONITORING UPDATES

Health Physics Group

For all dosimetry requests use the web-based template (see link below). If you know your location code (found in the middle on the second line of your exposure report) the account and mail code will pre-fill. Accessing the site requires a SUNet ID or password. If you do not have SUNet ID or password, you may send a request via the below website to the system administrator and a password will be issued.

<https://ehsappprd1.stanford.edu/dosimetry/dosimetryhome.jsp>

Due to user feedback and "lessons learned" remember:

- Wear only the dosimeter assigned to you
- Wear one dosimeter for the monitoring period (typically 1 or 3 months) unless instructed otherwise by us

- If not wearing a lead apron wear the dosimeter between the waist and collar
- If wearing a lead apron, wear the dosimeter on the collar
- Return your dosimeter to your contact within one week after the end of the wear period (e.g., if issued a monthly dosimeter on the 1st of October, give your worn dosimeter to your contact by the 7th of November)

A Dosimeter Lifecycle:

1. A web-based request is placed
2. Dosimetry Coordinator (DC) submits request to vendor (< 2 days)
3. Vendor processes order, issues the dosimeter and mails dosimeter to DC (< 2 weeks)
4. DC ID mails dosimeter to user (< 2 days)
5. New user wears dosimeter for 1-3 month issue period
6. New dosimeter mailed, old dosimeter returned to DC (1 week)
7. DC performs quality assurance on 2600 dosimeters and mails batch to vendor (1 week)
8. Vendor processes dosimeters (10 – 14 business days)
9. Reports are generated and mailed to Health Physics (1 week)
10. Health Physicists review the reports, initiates dose investigations as needed (1 week)
11. Dosimetry reports mailed out by DC (1 week)

U.S. HOTEL FIRES

University Fire Marshal's Office

The National Fire Protection Association recently announced that U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 3,900 reported U.S. hotel fires per year. On average, 1 of every 12 hotels or motels reported a structure fire each year.

The fire statistics for hotels and motels not protected by automatic fire sprinkler systems are very poor. On the other hand, no fire deaths occurred in properties where sprinklers were present in the area in which the fire started. As many of us are travelling either on business or for pleasure, it is advisable to stay in a hotel protected by automatic fire sprinklers.

NEW "STANFORD LAB SAFETY SHEET" PEROXIDE-FORMING COMPOUNDS

Occupational Health and Safety

Check out EH&S's new Lab Safety Sheet on peroxide-forming compounds: http://ehs.stanford.edu/researchlab/lab/safety_sheets/07-207.pdf

Certain classes of chemicals can undergo formation of explosive peroxides while being stored in common laboratory conditions. Safe management of such chemicals requires specific storage and handling practices.

This sheet provides the following information on:

- Identifying common peroxide formers
- Safe storage and use
- What to do if you discover old peroxide formers that may be unstable or explosive.

Lab Safety Sheets on other topics are available at: http://ehs.stanford.edu/researchlab/lab/lab_safety_sheets.html. If you have any questions, please call EH&S at 723-0448.

EH&S ENCOURAGES USE OF NEW ONLINE HAZARDOUS WASTE SYSTEM

Environmental Programs

Environmental Protection Program's On Line Hazardous Waste System is now fully functional and ready for use at <http://wastetag.stanford.edu>. The system features an electronic waste tag that is both compliant and useful as well as a quick and simple tool for requesting pickup of multiple chemical waste containers. Also, researchers can establish individual profiles for repetitive hazardous chemical waste streams, simplifying what can otherwise be a cumbersome labeling process. The system further provides a portal to hazardous waste compliance tools including such information as help with unknown chemicals and to participating in the very popular and successful surplus chemical program. EH&S is encouraging all laboratories to utilize the system and can provide assistance for getting started. Please contact Heather Perry at 3-1308 with any questions.

ELIMINATING THE USE OF ETHIDIUM BROMIDE

Environmental Programs

EH&S is ramping up its efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate the use ethidium bromide. Ethidium bromide, a widely-used chemical in DNA gel-staining processes, is a toxic and mutagenic material. Effective and cost-effective substitutes are available, including one manufactured by Invitrogen called SYBR Safe. SYBR Safe is used just like an ethidium bromide solution and the detection sensitivity is reportedly better than with ethidium bromide. EH&S is seeking volunteers to try SYBR Safe for themselves and will purchase the starter kits for a limited number of participants. If your laboratory is interested in participating, please contact Heather Perry at hperry@stanford.edu or 3-1308.

EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY POINTS

EH&S Training and Communications

In the event of an emergency on campus, staff need to be aware of local emergency and evacuation procedures including the location of their nearest Emergency Assembly Point (EAP). EAPs are designated by signs similar to the one pictured below.



For assistance in locating your EAP refer to the map of EAP locations, on the EH&S website. <http://ehs.stanford.edu/general/erprep/eap/>

EH&S News and Notes is published by the EH&S Training and Communications Group. Feedback is welcome at rbedgar@stanford.edu.