Safety Bulletin

March 2014

Environmental Health & Safety

What's Inside

Page One
- Minors in Laboratories
- Lab Recycling Program

Page Two
- Incident Blotter
- Rules of the Road
- Amazing Technicolor Lab Coat Contest
- Play It Safe Expo

Minors in Laboratories

As the spring and summer approaches, Yale experiences an increase of students and visitors under the age of 18 in research laboratories throughout campus. This is an excellent opportunity for these students and visitors to get experience working in laboratories before attending college or pursuing scientific career paths. However, there are federal and state regulations covering the presence of minors and visitors in the laboratory. The University has developed the "Policy Governing Minors in Yale Laboratories" and the policy on "Visiting Students in Research in Yale Laboratories" to assure compliance with these regulations, address safety concerns, and optimize the laboratory research experience.

Lab recycling program rolling out to other areas in the Medical School over the next several months through the Facilities and Custodial group.

Under this policy, youths aged 12 to 17 may enter a Yale research laboratory for a one time educational or recruitment purpose. Tours must be conducted with permission of the faculty member responsible for the laboratory and the Department Chair or his/her designee. The faculty member will be responsible for proper supervision and for providing any appropriate personal protective equipment for the visitors. Tours must be supervised at all times while on the premises, and tour participants may not participate in any laboratory activities. Children under 12 years of age are prohibited from entering laboratory areas under all circumstances.

Minor students aged 16 to 18 may work in a Yale research laboratory as part of an educational program approved by the Dean or Department Chair of the School and EHS. All visitors and minor students must complete the required safety trainings and adhere to all restrictions imposed by the Office of Environmental Health & Safety. No minors or visitors may work in a Yale laboratory unless they are part of an approved program.

For more information, including the application and approval procedure, please refer to:

Minors in Yale Laboratories Policy - http://provost.yale.edu/faculty/policy/minors-in-labs; and
Visitors in Yale Laboratories Policy - http://provost.yale.edu/faculty/policy/visiting-students-in-labs.

Office of Environmental Health & Safety
135 College Street, Suite 100, New Haven, CT 06510
Telephone: 203–785-3550 / Fax: 203-785-7588
http://www.yale.edu/ehs
Director: Peter Reinhardt

EVALUATION • RESPONSE • PREVENTION
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT • TRAINING

Safety Bulletin Contributors:
Brenda Armstrong Deborah Farat Cathleen King Stephanie Perry

Lab Recycling Program

If you work in the Amistad Building, you have been able to recycle plastic, metal and glass containers from your laboratory for the last two years in addition to the single stream recycling materials collected across campus. This successful pilot program is slowly rolling out to other areas in the Medical School over the next several months through the Facilities and Custodial groups.

The expanded program now accepts most glass, metal or plastic containers that have been TRIPLE RINSED from laboratories. Designated containers for lab recycling will be set up in select labs participating in the pilot program.

Items that CANNOT be recycled include: containers that held biological or radioactive materials, acids, bases or acutely hazardous (P listed) chemicals, plastic safety coated glass bottles and Pyrex.

With the roll out of this new program it is a great time to remind researchers how ALL empty chemical containers must be handled. For the safety of everyone who may come in contact with the container they NEED to be TRIPLE RINSED before placing in the normal trash or in the new lab recycling collection containers and original chemical labels must be removed or defaced. If they held acutely hazardous chemicals (P Listed) they must be tagged as hazardous waste and removed by EHS. See page 15 of the Chemical Waste Handbook http://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/hazwaste%20manual%20chemical%20section.pdf.

CHEMICAL CONTAINERS MAY NEVER BE PLACED IN MEDICAL WASTE CONTAINERS. Failure to properly handle chemical containers can result in exposure to Yale staff that handle and process this waste stream.

Incident Blotter

March 2014

Description: Exposure During Medical Waste Disposal

A technician suffered respiratory distress while operating an autoclave / shredder at the Medical School. This required treatment at YNHH. Although the exact cause of the exposure is uncertain, we believe that it resulted from laboratory chemicals improperly disposed of in one of the biomedical waste containers originating from a Yale laboratory. We know that improper waste disposal can have serious consequences for people who handle and process their wastes, and this incident may be an example of that risk.

Resolution:

EHS is re-educating laboratory staff at the Medical School on the proper disposal of biomedical waste. A particular focus is on proper source separation. Waste must be separated according to their type and corresponding procedure. Specifically:

- Never dispose of chemicals in the red biohazard bags or buckets;
- Needles may only be disposed of in needle boxes;
- Liquids (including bleach used for pathogen disinfection) may not be packaged with dry medical waste;
- Aerosol cans, even when empty, are strictly prohibited from the biomedical waste stream.

Physical improvements to ventilation at the equipment have been made, and engineering evaluations are underway to further increase ventilation from the area. Technicians who perform this work participated in the accident investigation and discussions for improving safety of the operation procedures.

Lessons Learned:

Laboratory personnel must understand and follow proper waste disposal procedures so that separation errors are avoided and injuries are prevented. Laboratory personnel must also mark all waste containers with the name of their PI and location.

The Amazing Technicolor Lab Coat Contest !!!

Tired of your plain old white lab coat? Here's your chance to show off your creative side! Enter the EHS "Amazing Technicolor Lab Coat Contest"!

Use your imagination. Make a statement! But most of all have fun!

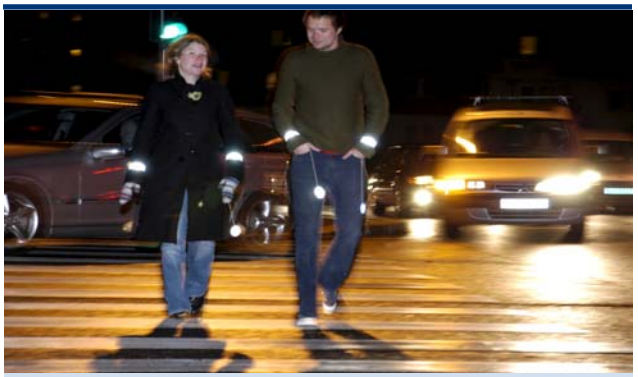
Lab coats may be of any color. Use the entire lab coat as your canvas if you like. If you can't alter your current lab coat, a limited number of disposable lab coats are available to entrants. Contact EHS at the number below if you would like to obtain one.

Entries will be voted on by attendees of the "Play It Safe" Expo, at the Harkness Lounge, on May 1st, 2014. Only one vote per attendee. The lab coat with the most votes wins!

Prizes for the 3 best decorated lab coats will be awarded!

For complete rules, eligibility, entry form and design guidelines visit ehs.yale.edu/contest. Questions? Call EHS at 203-737-2120.

Rules of the Road



Take steps to be safe when walking on roadways. This includes exercising caution at intersections and crosswalks, and increasing your visibility at night by wearing reflective clothing and carrying flashlights.

In the next 24 hours, on average, more than 460 people in the U.S. will be treated in an emergency department for traffic-related pedestrian injuries.[1] In the next 2 hours, on average, one pedestrian will die from injuries in a traffic crash.[2]

Whenever you're walking, keep these tips in mind:

- Cross the street at a designated crosswalk.
- Be careful at intersections where drivers may fail to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians while turning onto another street.
- Increase your visibility at night by carrying a flashlight and wearing reflective clothing.

It's safest to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) [online]. [cited 2011 May 25].
2. Department of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Traffic Safety Facts 2010: Pedestrians. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2012 [cited 2013 April 11].

Play It Safe Expo!

EHS is hosting our "Play It Safe" expo on Thursday, May 1 at Harkness Lounge, 367 Cedar Street, from 10am to 2pm. Free giveaways and refreshments will be provided. Visit EHS exhibits and demonstrations including personal protective equipment (PPE), waste management, green laboratories, using EHS Integrator, and pedestrian safety. Enter our "Amazing Technicolor Lab Coat" contest. Other Yale exhibits include: Fire Code Compliance, Office of Emergency Management, Yale Police, Being Well at Yale, Yale Affinity groups, and more. Please contact EHS at 737-2120 with any questions. We look forward to seeing you on May 1st!