



DIRECTOR'S LOG

By Mike Durham.

As we end this year and close out this semester, we look back on a year of major events and activities in Environmental Health and Safety and Risk Management. Notably, we did not have any deaths or serious disabling injuries. We are certainly thankful for that record.

We have undertaken an effort to improve our safety and risk management program in several initiatives. One is the revision of Policy Statement PS 90, *Workers' Compensation and Other Insurance Coverages*. The revisions to this policy statement are aimed at improving our productivity and care of employees through prevention of injuries, swift and effective treatment of injuries, investigations of accidents, and return of the employee to the work force as soon as possible.

We have taken a number of steps to assure proper vetting of the proposed changes, including the following:

- Identification of policy needs
- Research and drafting of initial policy language, including stakeholder input
- Distribution to the University Safety Committee for input and review with subsequent editing
- Presentation to Executive Director, Administrative Services and Risk Management and other key affected administrators
- Review by legal counsel and necessary governmental authorities
- Opportunity for review and comment from campus community through publication in appropriate employee communications
- Review, comment, and action by offices of the Executive Vice Chancellor, FAS and Provost

Currently the proposed revised policy can be reviewed on the [Risk Management Website](#). At this writing, the proposal is being routed to Vice Chancellors for their review and approval.

In a similar fashion we have proposed an update

to PS 67, *Misuse of Alcohol and Drugs*, and this policy revision has followed the same steps in development as PS 90.

We believe these policy revisions will give us a much better program of preventing accidents and handling injuries on the job.

During the year, we also instituted high deductible insurance coverages for workers' compensation and property losses in cooperation with the State Office of Risk Management.

We have moved forward with our plans to seek autonomy in our risk management program as provided for in the La Grad Act 2.0, which provides additional opportunities to improve our programs.

So the year has been a busy one, and we are anxious to continue the march in the new year.

Safety during the holidays is an absolute must. Traffic is heavy, partying involving alcohol is enjoyed, and many activities around the home pose an opportunity for accidents to steal away the joy. So be careful in all that you do, drive carefully and defensively, and let's keep it safe during the days ahead.

All of us in the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and in Risk Management wish you a happy and enjoyable holiday season, and a prosperous and safe New Year!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lab Safety On-Line Portal	2
Unknown Chemical Disposal	2
Holiday Travel Safety	3
Bent Electrical Plugs= DANGER	3
E.H.S. Contacts	4

Lab Safety

Welcome to the EHS-A Web Portal

The office of Environmental Health and Safety has added web portal to the EHS Assistant (EHS-A) to provide easy access and tutorials on its use.

[EHS Assistant Link](#)

The EHS-A is an environmental management database that is available online to researchers and staff within the LSU community. EHS-A is user friendly and provides strong inventory and training programs with compliance features.

- ◆ Managing chemical and biological inventories.
- ◆ Register a laboratory.
- ◆ Register lab workers.
- ◆ Request a hazardous waste pick-up.
- ◆ Access EH&S On-Line training.

EHS requires that all laboratory personnel complete the laboratory safety training on a yearly basis. Additional information and functions are being added to the system on a regular basis. Feel free to call (8-4314) or e-mail (jsteward@lsu.edu) with problems, suggestions, or concerns.

Unknown Chemical Waste Disposal

An unknown is defined as a chemical in an unlabeled container for which the identity is unknown. Federal, state and local regulations specifically prohibit the transportation, storage, or disposal of wastes of unknown identity. In addition, hazardous waste disposal companies will not accept unknowns without proper analysis. Unknown or unlabeled chemicals require analysis prior to disposal. Unknown chemicals present serious legal and safety problems for the university.

The process for identifying an unknown chemical can be tedious and costly. However, some activities can be done to prevent the generation of an unknown as well as identifying an. Unknown chemicals must be properly identified according to hazard class before proper disposal. The hazards that should be noted include: corrosive, ignitable, oxidizer, reactive, toxic and radioactive.

Every effort should be made by laboratory personnel to identify unknown chemicals. Here are a few steps that can be taken to help this effort:

1. Consult with the Principal Investigator (PI) or Supervisor/Manager about the type of work that was being conducted.
2. Ask other laboratory personnel if they are responsible for, or can help identify the unknown chemical. . Someone may remember its contents
3. The type of research currently being conducted in the laboratory can provide useful information for making this determination. Eliminating certain chemicals as a possibility helps narrow the problem as well. This is especially important for Mercury, PCB, or dioxin compounds because they must be managed separately from other hazardous waste.

[Continued– page 4](#)

Holiday Travel Safety Tips

- Allow plenty of time to get to your destination.
- When feeling tired or fatigued, pull over, let someone else drive-don't take a chance.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good repair– check the air pressure in your tires, (including your spare), fluid levels, and lights.
- ALWAYS use seat belts and child safety seats.
- Maintain a minimum of two seconds following distance between you and the car in front. Increase that distance when road and weather conditions are not ideal.
- Take time to clean the inside of your windows, especially the windshield. This will minimize the effect of “fogging” on cold days.
- Distractions increase your chance of having an accident. Avoid using cellular phones, disciplining children, or handling food while driving.

BENT Electrical Plugs= **DANGER!!!!**

Prevent this:



To Prevent this:

A bent plug is caused by pulling by the cord to unplug rather than grasping the plug and removing from the outlet.

Inserting a bent plug into an outlet can BI-PASS the internal insulators in an outlet, causing a direct short, and an arc-flash which can result in burns or a fire..



Never insert a bent plug into an outlet!!!

Let it Sneaux,
Let it Sneaux,
Let it Sneaux!!



UNKNOWN chemical disposal

(continued from page 2)

4. Contact groups that previously used the area and see if they can recall the waste's identity.
5. Simple tests such as pH and flammability may aid in identification.
6. Check fresh reagents present; the waste was most likely derived from them. The field of possibilities can be greatly reduced in this manner.

For trade products, contact the manufacturer or search online to obtain an MSDS.

CAUTION: Please do not open or handle an unknown if you suspect that it may detonate or react adversely. Proper precautions must be taken in the handling of any unknown chemical.

If laboratory personnel are able to identify the chemical, a hazardous materials pickup request should be filled out. If it is not possible to identify the material, a "Hazardous Waste" label should be placed on the container and a pickup request should be filled out and submitted which describes all of the material with available information (i.e. 4-liter container of clear liquid).

***Accidents take no holidays.
Be sure to keep safety in mind
during your holiday!!***



++++ Safety Meetings +++++

As a minimum, Department Safety meetings should be conducted Quarterly. This newsletter can be used as safety meeting material. Please route through your department via e-mail and request a "return receipt," or circulate with "sign-in" sheet containing printed name/date/ and initial.

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Year-To Date Accidents

During the first 11 months of 2012, there have been 227 accidents reported to Risk Management. There were 269 accidents reported during this same period in 2011.