

**AFRL
ENVIRONMENTAL,
SAFETY AND
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
(ESOH) NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2000**



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Laboratory Safety

All laboratory workers should know the procedures at their facilities for responding to and evacuating from emergencies. They should periodically review the emergency response plans for their laboratory and always be aware of the locations of emergency telephone numbers, eye wash fountains, emergency showers, spill kits, emergency exits and evacuation routes.

If you are in a laboratory and a fire breaks out, **do not panic!** Small fires can be extinguished without evacuation. However, an immediate readiness to evacuate is essential in the event the fire cannot be controlled. Only trained personnel should use fire extinguishers. Never enter a room that is smoke filled. Never enter a room containing a fire without a backup person.

Small Fire

- Alert and evacuate people in the laboratory.
- Activate nearest fire alarm or call **911**.
- Smother fire using correct fire extinguisher.
- Aim extinguisher at base of fire.
- Always maintain accessible exit.
- Avoid smoke or fumes.

Major Fire

- Alert and evacuate people in area.
- Activate nearest fire alarm or call **911**.
- Close doors to confine fire.
- Evacuate to a safe area outside of building through stairwell; **do not use elevator**.
- Have person knowledgeable of incident and laboratory assist emergency response personnel.



Emergencies Involving Clothing on Fire

- Roll person around on floor to smother flame, or drench with water if safety shower is immediately available.
- Obtain medical attention, if necessary.
- Report incident to supervisor.



The range and quantity of hazardous substances used in laboratories require preplanning to respond safely to chemical spills. Knowledgeable and experienced personnel should only do the cleanup of a chemical spill. Spill kits with instructions, absorbents, reactants, and protective equipment should be available to clean up minor spills. A minor chemical spill is one that the laboratory staff is capable of handling safely without the assistance of safety and emergency personnel. All other chemical spills are considered major.



Minor Chemical Spill

- Alert people in immediate area of spill.
- Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves, and long-sleeve lab coat.
- Avoid breathing vapors from spill.
- Confine spill to small area.
- Use appropriate kit to neutralize and absorb spill. Collect residue, place in container, and dispose as chemical waste.
- Clean spill area with water.
- If the nature of the spill material is unknown, evacuate area immediately.

Major Chemical Spill

- Alert people in the laboratory to evacuate.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources.
- Phone 911
- Close doors to affected area.
- Make internal organizational notifications as deemed necessary (supervisor, UEC, etc.).
- Have person knowledgeable of incident and laboratory assist emergency personnel.



Chemical Spill on Body

- Flood exposed area with emergency shower for at least 15 minutes.
- Remove contaminated clothing at once.
- Make sure chemical has not accumulated in shoes.
- **Obtain medical attention.**
- Report incident to supervisor and safety office.



Hazardous Material Splashed in Eye

- Immediately rinse eyeball and inner surface of eyelid with emergency eyewash unit continuously for 15 minutes.
- Forcibly hold eye open to ensure effective wash behind eyelids.
- **Obtain medical attention.**
- Report incident to supervisor and safety office.



Several people asked me to give common items an ECAMP team might write up during an assessment. I looked through some notes I took during a recent ECAMP. These were the sorts of things the inspectors were finding:

- Initial Accumulation Point (IAP) management - no container tracking log at the IAP; supervisor not signing the log;
- No secondary containment around hazmat or waste;
- No site-specific spill plan, or plan not updated annually;
- No IAP permit posted;
- No training records;
- No funnels used to add waste to containers; hazmat/waste residue on outside of or surrounding container;
- Cylinders not chained or not in a secure area;
- Permitted equipment (e.g. air cleaners) not functioning;
- Emergency showers/eyewash stations not functioning or inspected;
- No chemical inventory of hazmat;
- Hazmat not segregated by hazard class (e.g. corrosives were incorrectly stored with flammables rather than being in their own corrosives locker, high- and low-pH corrosives not segregated from each other; oxidizing acids stored with flammables, etc.)
- Privacy-Act information found in a dumpster;
- Recyclables thrown in regular trash;
- Above-ground storage tanks not locked or labels painted over;
- Secondary containment units with hazmat inside (secondary containment should be emptied as soon as the leaking container is identified and removed)

If you have any questions regarding the ECAMP program or these items, contact your supervisor, Unit Environmental Coordinator, or Environmental Management (75627).

Registering a Vehicle on Base?

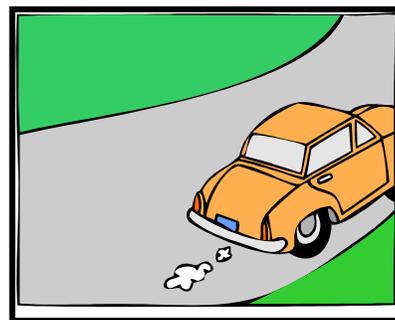


Whatever our personal opinions are regarding the E-Check program, we at Wright-Patterson are required by law to have our vehicles pass an E-Check inspection before they can be registered on base. This is because motor vehicles are a major contributor of air pollution. According to information published in Ohio E-Check's brochure, "Just the Facts about E-Check", cars contribute up to 44% of the pollutants that cause ozone or smog in Ohio, and more than half of the pollutants that cause respiratory problems. Most of these pollutants are invisible, and would go undetected without an effective auto emissions testing program.

E-Check, a program administered by Ohio EPA, reduces air pollutants which, at unhealthy levels, contribute to the development of respiratory diseases that are harmful, especially to young children and the elderly. The federal government requires Ohio and many other states to develop a 10-year plan to improve and maintain air quality. E-Check is part of Ohio's response to those federal clean air requirements. Otherwise, Ohio might fail to meet federal clean air standards. Results of such a failure could include:

- / The loss of federal highway funds;
- / Limits on the amount of new industrial and commercial growth;
- // More stringent controls on consumer products.

One newsletter reader wanted to mention his success in getting an E-Check performed on his vehicle by going to one of the stations close to the base. He stated, "When I went to have my car inspected, I tried to determine the nearest location for me; one inspection place is not more than 1-2 miles from the main entrance to Area B - along the same road. It was simple and easy to get the inspection done".



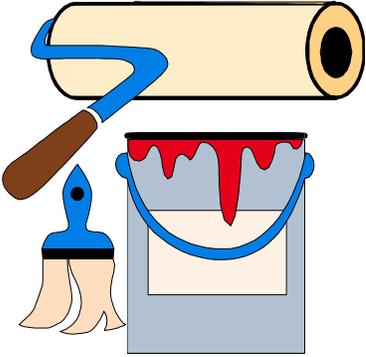
To learn more about the e-check program on base, including Frequently Asked Questions, a list of E-Check locations, and e-check web links, visit the Air Quality site under Environmental Management's Web Page at:

http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/emp/air_quality/echeck.htm

For information on the Ohio E-check program, visit their website at:

<http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/mobile/mobile.html>

When are Administrative Items Hazardous?

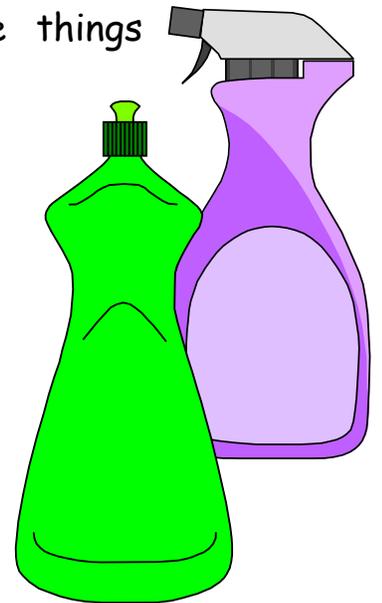


A newsletter reader brought up the issue of common materials used around the base that might be hazardous. He asks for clarification as to the "use, storage, and disposal of common (administrative) office products such as latex wall paint, WD-40 Lubricant, Chlorine Bleach, Vinegar (coffee pot cleaner - do we need an MSDS to have a jug of

Vinegar around?), rubber cement solvent, etc." He also wants to know if the rules are different for military/civilians or contractors.

This is a very good question. Things that we may commonly use at home without a second thought (for example, ordinary household cleaners and water-based paints) may need to be handled a little differently on base and can cause some confusion. Most of the things questioned above are either non-hazardous or are considered "Hazcode A" products, meaning that they are not tracked by the Hazmat Cell; however, they must be evaluated for hazardous characteristics or constituents prior to disposal.

Some common administrative items used around the base must be tracked as a hazmat and may become a hazardous waste when they are ready to be disposed of. Many things need to be considered on a "case-by-case" basis, depending on how the product will be used. For example, if you're using something as part of your 8-5 job and will be exposed to it all day long, you probably need an **MSDS** and may even need to use **personal protective equipment**. The Bioenvironmental Management folks at the Hazmat Cell (x79898) will help you make this determination.



If the product is for occasional use or "administrative" purposes (e.g. vinegar for use in a coffeepot) it usually does not need to be tracked through the Hazmat Cell. However, don't make this assumption - check with your supervisor, your Unit Environmental Coordinator, or the Hazmat Cell to be sure! I contacted the Hazmat Cell to get an answer to the reader's specific questions. Here is their response:

Latex Wall Paint: If bought through the Self-Help store, nothing is required as far as MSDS and tracking labels. Just PLEASE remember to buy only what you need. Self-Help has a latex paint waste stream barrel for small amounts of leftover paint. Their phone number is 7-4010. If, on the other hand, the latex paint is purchased off base, then it must get turned in to the Hazmat Cell accompanied by an MSDS, and WPAFB Form 1401, etc.

WD-40 is considered a hazmat and must be tracked as such. We have MSDSs loaded in HMMS [hazmat tracking database]. We even have a new one for WD-40 that uses CO₂ as a propellant and is a Hazcode B versus the old one that has propane as a propellant and is a hazcode O (containing ozone-depleting chemicals).

Chlorine bleach does not need to be tracked as a hazmat. The best advice is to have an MSDS close by, (one from the Hazmat Cell) and write "HAZCODE A" on the jug. We will print out MSDSs all day if we have time, no big deal.

Vinegar is OK, no tracking label nor MSDS needed.

Rubber Cement Solvent is questionable. Take an MSDS to the Hazmat Cell to help make the determination...in the mean time, out of site-out of mind.

Contractors are no different than the rest of the base. We will need a WPAFB Form 1414 (Contract Hazardous Material Report) filled out by the contractor and a MSDS for each hazmat that they are going to bring on base and use for the job that they are going to do. In the future, this will be incorporated into all new and renewed contracts [if it is not already in the contract].

For more information on Hazcodes and tracking of hazardous materials, see the base's Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP): <http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/emv/hazmat/forms/HMMP.doc> at Environmental Management's Home Page or call the Hazmat Cell at 79898.

The table below is from Section 2.1.2 of the HMMP and lists common Hazcode A products. The HMMP is currently being revised and the new version should be completed within the next couple of months.

Table 2-1. List of Low-Hazard Items

Batteries, sealed, no maintenance	Glue, Elmer
Buffer solution	Glue, Crazy
Cement rubber	Lamps, fluorescent
Cleaners, (household - e.g. Windex, Tilex, scouring powder)	Leak detectors
Cleaner, hand	Lotion, hand & body
Cleaner, marker board	Protectant, Armor All
Correction fluid	Plant food
Cream, waterless hand	Soap, car wash
Cream, skin	Soap, hand
Detergent, laundry	Spill kit
Detergent, general	Toner cartridges
Deodorant/air freshener	Wax, floor
Distilled water	Wax, furniture
	Wax, car

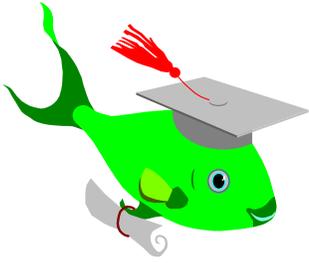


[Air Force Form 813s - Request for Environmental Impact Analysis](#)

Submit AF Form 813s to Mary Shelly at AFRL/MLOF. For more information on the AF Form 813, see Environmental Management's Home Page:

http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/emp/impact_analysis/impact.htm

Contact Mary Shelly at 59000 or via base e-mail to get electronic instructions for completing the AF Form 813 for both on-base and off-base work.



TRAINING AND CONTRACTORS

The subject of the base providing training to contractors on ESOH topics has been a hot topic lately, considering the ever-increasing number of contractors on base. The base legal and contracting offices have provided the following general guideline regarding training and contractors. Specific questions should be addressed to your supervisor, contracting officer, or technical representative.

- / The Air Force is required to ensure contractors are fully informed of work site health or safety issues.
- / These include OSHA-type hazards that are not obvious (e.g., asbestos, lead paint, hazardous waste sites, etc.).
- / Contractors must in turn provide training to their employees re: these hazards.
- / If contractors are not providing their employees with OSHA training, contact the AF contracting officer or technical representative (COTR) to ensure contractors are complying with training requirements.
- / **The AF shall not provide contractors with OSHA training other than as stated above.**
- / If the contract calls for the contractor to have certain types of training upon employment; the cost of the specific training should be factored into his pricing. Such examples include forklift operation, confined space entry training, asbestos removal, etc.
- / The only exception would be if the training/certification is indigenous to the Government (DOD-specific); e.g. a Government driver's license issued here at WPAFB after testing is done here at WPAFB. Since this is a site-specific entity, thus cannot be gotten anywhere else, we have to facilitate the contractor in obtaining the license and the training/certification required to get it.
- / **88 ABW/EM will provide RCRA Hazardous Waste training to contractors:**
 - / The training is directed to the contractor's supervisory or management personnel responsible for contract performance.
 - / All contractors working on WPAFB may attend RCRA training.
 - / Contractor management personnel must properly supervise their employees to ensure compliance with environmental requirements on WPAFB.
- / Under no circumstances should gov't personnel be supervising or directing individual contractors.
- / If issues arise, notify the appropriate contracting officer; they will then notify the contractor in writing.

UPCOMING ESOH TRAINING:

RCRA HAZMAT/HAZWASTE TRAINING:

Initial Training: 18 May, 20 Jul, and 21 Sep 00
Annual Refresher Training: 5 Apr, 16 May, 20 Jun 00
(Schedule both with Mary Shelly, 59000)

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT (ORM) TRAINING

There is a half-day level II course offered on 27 April, 11 May and 1 Jun.
Level II training is required for supervisors and managers per WPAFBI 91-202.
Supervisors are to subsequently provide their employees with "Level III" Awareness Level training. An ORM video is available for loan from the safety office to assist supervisors with the Level III training.

To schedule, contact Chuck Swankhaus at 43390

ESOH AWARENESS TRAINING:

11 April, 11 July, 10 Oct 00 – schedule with Public Health at 52515

This course is highly recommended for all employees and contractors.

TORNADO SAFETY BRIEFING

Complete with pictures, suggested web sites, and tornado safety tips
For organizations wishing to sponsor the briefing in your own location, please contact John Sparks, at 54782.

Confined Space Training

This training is set up as needed. It is required whenever entry into permit required confined spaces are required. Please contact **Mr. Kerry Thomason** at 4-3380 with questions or to set up training dates.

Explosives Operations Training

This training is set up as needed. It is required whenever working with explosives.
Please contact **Mr. Dave Brucker** at 4-3388 with questions or to set up training dates.

Unit Environmental Coordinator Satellite Training

The last offering of this course for FY00 is 31 May – 2 Jun 00. Those interested MUST contact Shelly Baty at 77152 x281 by 7 Apr 00.

New ESOH Training Videos Available:

These videos are on a wide variety of ESOH topics and are a great resource for supplementing training such as supervisor safety training.
Contact Mary Shelly at 59000 for an electronic list of video titles.

Remember to send any questions, topic ideas or suggestions for
this newsletter to Mary Shelly - Phone: 59000 - Email:
mary.shelly@afri.af.mil