

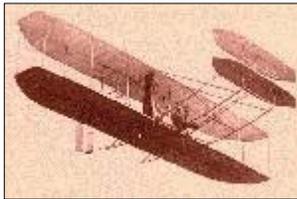
Air Force Research Laboratory
Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio

**Environmental,
Safety, and
Occupational Health
Newsletter
October 2000**



In This Month's Issue:

**National Fire
Prevention Week
8-14 October**



**Huffman Prairie
Flying Field**

**Halloween
Safety Tips**



October 8-14 is National Fire Prevention Week

The history of Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred on October 9, 1871. This tragic conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2000 acres in 27 hours. The origin of the fire has generated speculation since its occurrence, with fact and fiction becoming blurred over the years. One popular legend is that Mrs. Catherine O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary's barn on fire and starting the spectacular blaze.

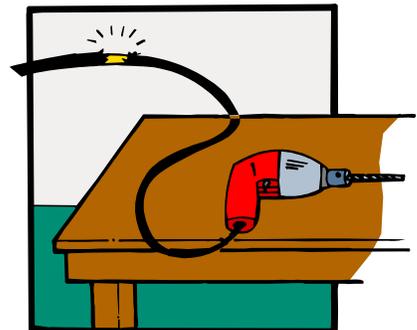
Working in laboratories and offices hold many potentials for fire. Let's take a moment and review some tips on how to avoid damaging, and in some cases, deadly fires.



Electrical Wiring: Most fires of electrical origin in offices are from defective or inadequate wiring and equipment, overloaded circuits, substandard repairs, or alterations. Electrical installations should be inspected periodically and kept in good repair and routine visual inspections should be made of portable equipment. **Don't expect someone else to do these inspections – take the initiative and do them yourself.**

After all, you are the most familiar with your working environment and you know where those questionable areas are much better than some outside inspector does.

- **Never ignore overloaded circuits.** Remember that a tripped circuit breaker is a warning. If the total current demand (amps) of connected equipment is greater than that which the wiring or socket outlets are designed to supply, there is potential for an electrical fire.
- Where **flammable gases or vapors** may be present, use only electrical equipment approved for such an application.
- **Repair loose wire connections** or cables that are kinked, frayed or otherwise damaged. Broken strands may pierce the insulated covering and become a shock or short circuit hazard.
- **Poorly fitting plugs** in socket connections should be changed. Use a standard receptacle and plug.
- **Shut off the power** on any electrical machine such as computers, photocopiers, and calculators when the machine is not in use.
- **Extension cords** should be used at an absolute minimum and are only a temporary device. Treat extension cords with care. Broken insulation can start fires. Replace them if they are damaged or show



wear. Cords should not be strung around doorjambes or placed under rugs because friction wear will lead to insulation failure. Extension cords should be replaced by fixed wiring.

- **Keep desk lamps clear** of papers, drapes, and other combustible materials.



Flammable Liquids:

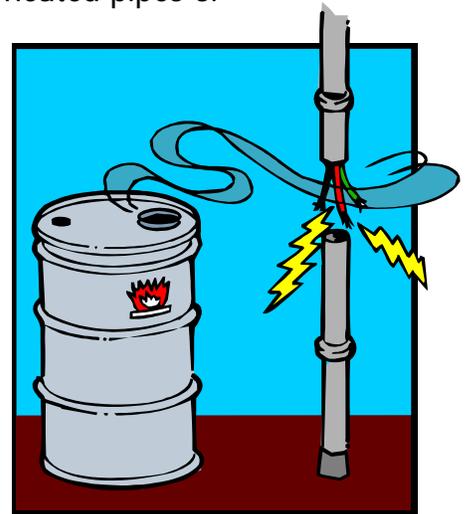
Although the liquids themselves do not burn, they continually give off ignitable vapors which, being heavier than air, creep along the floor and can easily catch fire from a source of ignition such as electric sparks.

Follow these safety rules to avoid fire hazards of flammable and combustible liquids:

- Use **non-flammable substitutes** where possible.
- Know the **location of your nearest extinguisher** suitable for liquid fires (Class B) and make sure to periodically inspect it to ensure it is full.
- Keep occupants informed of flammable and combustible liquid hazards by **posting safety precautions** and clearly labeling containers.
- Never store flammable and combustible liquids close to heated pipes or other sources of heat or flame. Keep them out of the rays of the sun.
- Do not store flammable and combustible liquids in open containers. Use approved containers and be sure they are closed after each use and stored in UL approved **flammable liquid storage cabinets**.
- Remember Pollution Prevention and **ORDER ONLY WHAT YOU NEED**. Only keep small quantities of flammable materials on hand - sufficient for your daily operations.



- In areas where flammable vapors may be present under normal operating conditions, all electrical wiring and equipment should be **Explosion-Proof**, proper ventilation should be provided, and only indirect heat should be used. Flammable and combustible liquids must be stored in conformance with National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) standards.



For questions concerning NFPA requirements, flammables storage, etc. contact the Base Fire Department Technical Services Group at 74075 or 76933.

Office Housekeeping (This means ALL of us)

Poor housekeeping is another factor that contributes to office fires. This doesn't mean the janitorial services; this means us and all the clutter we accumulate! All of us have a responsibility to maintain "good housekeeping" in our own work area. The following rules should be observed:

- Close filing cabinets and cupboards and clear desks of all unnecessary papers before leaving the office for the day.
- Don't keep large quantities of loose papers on desks.
- Place all waste materials in the proper waste or recycling containers.
- Ensure all electrical equipment is switched off.
- Ensure aisles are not obstructed in any way.
- Ensure all doors are kept free from obstructions and are not wedged open.
- Empty contents of waste containers regularly.
- Discard packing materials and remove shredded paper.



Housekeeping should be carried out on a regular basis to ensure that no hazards or unnecessary combustibles accumulate in work areas.

Now there's a Fire. What will YOU do?



If there were to be a fire, do you know where the nearest fire extinguisher is? What about the nearest fire alarm? What about the nearest exit? What about an alternate exit? If you are on the upper floors of a building, remember to take the stairs. Do you know where they are?

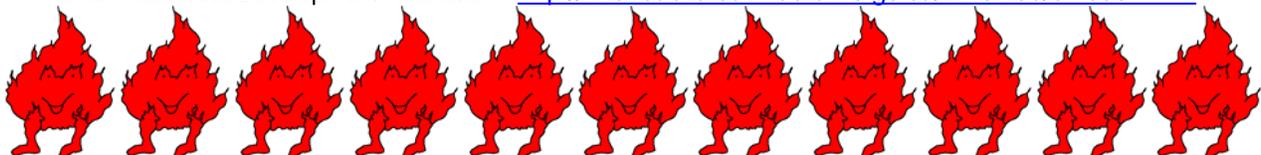
And here's the BIG QUESTION...

Has your supervisor discussed with you WHERE TO CONVENE outdoors in the event of an evacuation so that you can be accounted for? If you do not know, FIND OUT!

According to the Base Safety Office, one of the consistent problems seen during safety inspections is inadequate aisle space and blocked emergency egress areas.

For information on National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) Codes and Standards, visit their Web Site at: <http://www.nfpa.org/>

Some of these tips were adopted from "Office Fire Safety" Technical Information Bulletin No. 1997-14 from Human Resources Development - Canada. <http://info.load-otea.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/~fireweb/officeen.htm>



Spend some time at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field

By Jan Ferguson, Cultural Resources Program Manager
Environmental Management

Did you know that Wright-Patterson Air Force Base really is the birthplace of aviation?

There's a tiny, 84-acre field, lying just past the active runways in Area C where the airplane was truly invented, and where practical flight began. In 1903, Dayton's Wright brothers came back from Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and looked around for a field closer to home where they could perfect their new-fangled invention, the airplane. They chose the site we now call **Huffman Prairie Flying Field**, because there was convenient access (an electric interurban line ran from Dayton to Springfield, with a stop adjacent to the flying field, along today's Marl Road) and relative isolation. It was at this site in 1904 and 1905 that the Wright brothers modified and ultimately perfected their aircraft and taught themselves how to fly.



This site, though still owned and managed by the Air Force (88 ABW/EM), is part of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park

The plane that is the world's "first practical airplane", the 1905 Wright Flyer III, is on display at Carillon Historical Park. You can visit Huffman Prairie Flying Field any time and take a self-guided walking tour to learn more about the remarkable achievements that occurred on this site. Tour brochures are located in a box at the mailbox, in front of the replica of the 1905 hangar. Please sign in at the mailbox! **The site is open to the public during daylight hours, 7 days a week.** People who don't have base access privileges need to go to the visitor's center at Gate 12-A to obtain a vehicle pass. Come on out and learn how the site is directly linked to modern-day Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

A replica of the catapult the
Wright Brothers used to
launch their plane can be
seen at the Huffman Prairie
Flying Field



ESOH Training

RCRA Hazardous Waste Training

Annual Refresher Training

AFRL Employees: **18 Oct, 13 Dec 00**

Schedule with [Mary Shelly](#) x59000

Initial Training – 16 Nov 00

Schedule with [Shelly Baty](#), 77152 x281



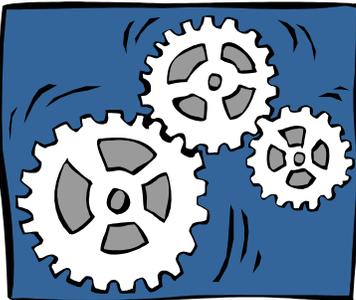
Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH) Awareness Training

10 Oct 00

This course covers a broad range of topics and requirements that apply to all of us at Wright-Patterson. The ESOH course is highly recommended for all employees on Base.

Schedule with Public Health at 52515

Operational Risk Management Training (Level II)



This course will teach you the skills necessary to anticipate and avoid costly and possibly injurious mistakes or delays in your program. By learning and applying tools to identify and eliminate potential land mines BEFORE they occur, your project will run more smoothly. This is NOT "just a safety program". Any task you're faced with requires proper planning to ensure successful completion.

Upcoming Course Dates: 19 Oct, 16 Nov, 14 Dec 00 (8:00-1:00)

Call Chuck Swankhaus at 43390 to schedule

For more information on ESOH topics, visit the following Home Pages:

ASC/SEG Safety Office: <https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/index.html>

88 ABW Environmental Management: <http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/default.cfm>

Bioenvironmental Management: <http://www.bio.wpafb.af.mil/>



Finally, before you go out “Trick-or-Treating” to collect all those goodies, here are a few things to remember to make sure the goblins don’t get you, or the little munchkins!

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. If you insist on being a vampire, add some reflective tape to your cape.
- Make sure that your costume is short enough and fits well so as not to create a tripping hazard. Ghosts, better hem those sheets.
- Place an identification tag on your wrist or around your neck with name, address, and phone number in case you get lost in the graveyard. (Important for younger children.)
- Consider decorative face paint in lieu of masks that can obscure your vision.
- Bring a flashlight with fresh batteries. This will help you see the ghouls before they pounce on you. (While we’re on batteries, get some fresh ones for your smoke detector too.)
- Eliminate trip hazards on your walkway and porch to make it safe for other trick-or-treaters.



- Be careful when using lit jack-o-lanterns. Keep them away from flammables such as drapes, bushes, or areas where little munchkin costumes could catch on fire.
- If you are driving, DRIVE SLOWLY to avoid witches, black cats, and various other creatures of the night crossing the street sporadically.
- If you are walking, assume the cars always have the right-of-way. Even if one car stops, others may not see you. Avoid jaywalking; stay on sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Only go to houses with porch lights on to avoid gremlins, trolls and other suspicious demons that lurk in the shadows.
- If you are going to be drinking from the “spiked” cauldron of blood (a.k.a., alcohol), make sure to have a designated driver who only drinks the apple cider - as long as it’s not too fermented.
- Don’t give hard candy to small goblins. Review CPR skills to aid someone who is choking or having a heart attack: <http://www.lafd.org/heart1.htm>



For more Halloween Safety tips to review with your children, visit <http://www.lafd.org/hween.htm>, a great site put together by the Los Angeles Fire Department – *Happy Halloween!!*