

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

**Environmental, Safety and
Occupational Health (ESOH)
Newsletter**



November 2002

In This Issue

- Installing & Testing Smoke Alarms
- Preventing Fires in the Laboratory
 - Getting Ready for Winter
 - Reader Comment
 - ESOH Training

Installing & Testing Smoke Alarms

These easy safety tips can keep your whole family safer.



Tips for installing your smoke alarms correctly:

- Install smoke alarms Listed (examined and tested to appropriate product safety standards) by a qualified testing laboratory on every level of your home, including the basement (but not unfinished attics). Make sure there is an alarm in or near every sleeping area.
- Mount the smoke alarms high on ceilings or walls – remember, smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, outside doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation.
- Don't paint your smoke alarms; paint or other decorations could keep them from working when you most need it.

Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall.

Tips for keeping your smoke alarms working properly:

Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarms'

"test button." Never use an open-flame device to test the alarm as you could burn yourself or start a fire. If the smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions permit the use of an aerosol smoke product for testing the smoke alarm, only use one that has been Listed by a third-party product testing agency, and utilize it in accordance with the product instructions.

- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low.
- **Helpful hint:** schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clock from daylight to standard time in the fall.
- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following manufacturer's instructions can help keep it working properly.
- Replace your smoke alarms once every 10 years.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm.
- Make sure that everyone in your home can hear and recognize the sound of the alarm and knows how to react immediately.
- [Read NFPA's smoke alarm fact sheet.](#)



Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarms' "test button."



This article was copied from the National Fire Protection website:



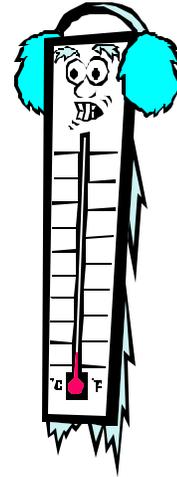
Preventing Fires in the Laboratory

Hazard	Risk Factor	Risk Control
<p><u>Fires and burns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• caused by the ignition of flammable materials and by faulty electrical equipment, carry the risk of death, personal injury and severe property damage.• Scalds from excessively hot water can result in deep burns and can be disfiguring.•	<p><u>Work involving:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flammable chemicals• Heat sources• the build-up of waste materials in offices and labs• the frequent moving of portable electrical equipment• using hot water from the taps• heating drinks or foods in a microwave oven.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure familiarity with fire emergency procedures.• Ensure wastes are removed promptly.• Segregate heat sources from flammable materials.• Ensure portable electrical equipment is regularly safety tested. Check re-test date and if the date has elapsed do not use the equipment and refer it to the workshop technicians for re-test.• Take care when using hot water. The hot tap water temperature can be as high as 65C• Don't leave food or drink unattended when heating it in a microwave oven and take care when removing it.

For more information on Lab Safety visit:
http://internal.bath.ac.uk/waste/bbsafe/a_zindex.htm

Getting Ready for Winter

With winter fast approaching, here are a few things to think about before the worst of winter strikes:



Winterize Your Car:

- Change the oil and filter
- Lubricate the chassis
- Replace the air and fuel filters
- Inspect the electrical system
- Remove dirt from battery terminals
- Inspect cables for secure connections
- Replace the battery if more than four years old!
- Check for leaks in the radiator system
- If radiator fluids are low, add a 50/50 mixture of antifreeze and water



Winterize Your Home:

- Emergency heat sources
- Emergency links to the outside world
- Emergency medical supplies
- Emergency power and light sources
- Emergency food and water sources

General Winter and Holiday Safety Tips:

- Do not drink and drive. Call a taxi, plan a designated driver in advance, or make plans to stay where you are.
- Provide non-alcoholic beverages at parties.
- Monitor alcohol consumption of guests and friends. Remember "Friends don't let friends drive drunk".
- Make efforts to keep impaired drivers and pedestrians off the roadways.
- Make sure to fully clear ice and snow from your vehicle, including headlights and taillights before driving.
- Watch out for "black ice" on the roadways.
- Shovel snow carefully. Remember you may not be in the best shape and you are most likely bundled up. Risk of strained muscles or heart attacks increases as you attempt to make things safe for your vehicles and pedestrian traffic.
- Be mindful for signs of frostbite or hypothermia.
- Slips, trips, and falls remain one of the leading causes of injury during this time of year.
- Outdoor pets are affected by the weather conditions too, make sure you bring them in during colder weather. Supply plenty of water for them, and make sure it isn't constantly frozen.
- Check smoke alarms and their batteries. Practice or plan your fire escape drills.
- Have emergency service numbers readily available if not in a 911 community.



Wear your seatbelts and ensure all child occupants are properly restrained in car seats or belts - It's the law.



Reader Comment:

A comment on the Oct 02 ESOH Newsletter: the back safety quiz (#8) refers to protective equipment to prevent back strain and discusses specially designed belts in the answer.

A note (from AFOSH STD 91-31, Personal Protective Equipment): "There is no definitive proof that back support belts serve any protective function therefore the Air Force does not currently recognize back support belts as personal protective equipment."

I just brought this up because I am not familiar with the installation safety office's policy regarding back support belts, but I think anyone (gov't employees) planning to utilize them should be.

Capt Gary C. Wright, PE
AFRL/MLQL

Thanks for the comment Gary! According to the ASC/SEG Ground Safety Office, the policy on back belts is as follows: While back belts may be used if desired, the Safety Office never recommends them and does not consider them PPE. If you do choose to use one, the Safety Office requires that employees be trained on their uses and limitations. For more information, contact the Base Safety Office at 43391.

Wright-Patterson ESOH Web Sites:

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: <http://www.abwem.wpafb.af.mil/em/>

HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER: <https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/wellness/>

SAFETY: <https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/index.html>

PUBLIC HEALTH: <https://wpmc3.wpafb.af.mil/amds/ph/index.htm>

BIOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING: <https://www.bio.wpafb.af.mil/>



If you have any suggestions for this newsletter or if you would like to be added / removed from the distribution list, please contact [Mary Shelly](#) (937) 255-9000.

ESOH Training and Opportunities

RCRA Hazardous Waste Training: Mandatory for all employees who generate hazardous waste. Issue Point (IP) Managers, Hazwaste generators, primary and alternate Initial Accumulation Point (IAP) managers, Unit Environmental Coordinators (UECs), and supervisors of all these individuals must take annual RCRA training.



Initial Training: 21 Nov 02

[CLICK HERE to schedule electronically](#)

Or schedule with Susan Dilworth 75627 x223

Annual Refresher Training - AFRL Only

14 Nov 02

Schedule with Mary Shelly x59000

Annual Refresher Training - Organizations other than AFRL

19 Dec 02

[CLICK HERE to schedule electronically](#)

Or schedule with Susan Dilworth 75627 x223

Environmental Compliance, Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) Training (ENV220)



This course is designed to give students knowledge to successfully plan and execute an internal or external compliance assessment (such as ECAMP), prepare required reports, and direct the follow-up actions. For more information on the course visit [AFIT's Website](http://cess.afit.af.mil/env_020/default.htm) (http://cess.afit.af.mil/env_020/default.htm).

You must sign up for the course through your Training Focal Point (TFP). Contractor registration should be coordinated through their assigned organization's TFP. Additional paperwork is required for contractors to attend this course.

For more information contact

Karen Thompson, 88 ABW/EMO at 72010 x 211

Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health (ESOH) Awareness Training - 19 Nov 02

Sign up with Mary Shelly x59000

This course covers a broad range of topics and requirements that apply to all of us at Wright-Patterson, including mandatory training requirements. This course is highly recommended for all employees on Base, including contractors. Supervisors are highly encouraged to attend.



CPR Training

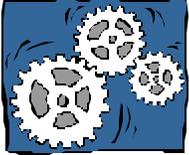


Required for electrical and confined space workers per 29 CFR 1910.151. The American Heart Association recommends CPR refresher training every two years and the American Red Cross recommends CPR refresher training every year. CPR training (per the American Heart Association) is **taught at the Base Hospital every Tuesday** provided that there are enough students for a class.

Contact Marcia Wilson at x79347.

Operational Risk Management (ORM)

To sign up, contact Chuck Swankhaus at 43390



ORM is a tool anyone can use to help with planning and decision-making in order to reduce or eliminate potential risks and increase efficiency. The Safety Office (ASC/SEG) has made two ORM briefings available over the Internet. Click on the following links to learn more about ORM:

Awareness Level ORM Training:

https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/orm/exec_training.ppt

Level II ORM Training:

https://www.asc.wpafb.af.mil/asc/safety/orm/orm_level_ii_training.ppt

Public Health Training

All Training classes listed below will be held at 1300 in the Public Health Classroom in Bldg 675, Area B unless otherwise stated. If needed, more classes will be added to the schedule. To sign up for training or work specific education, please contact the Public Health Office at 255-2515.



Hazardous Communication (HAZCOM)

This course is a Train-the-Trainer course that provides mandatory HAZCOM training to supervisors and safety reps responsible for their organization's HAZCOM program. Hazcom Training per 29 CFR 1910.1200 is required for all employees who use, handle, or may be exposed to hazardous materials upon initial assignment to that job (if not already receiving Chemical Hygiene Training per 29 CFR 1910.1450). HAZCOM refresher training is required whenever a new chemical or hazardous process is introduced into the work area or it is evident an employee needs refresher training. Otherwise, there is no "annual" requirement for HAZCOM training.

Ergonomics Training

29 Nov 02

Open to all interested DOD and military workers. Focus will be on Repetitive Motion Illnesses. If you would like in-depth ergonomic training that is more job specific, Public Health is available to do that on a one-to-one basis.



Chemical/Biological Emergency Actions

Course covers emergency actions to take for self-protection against potential Biological and Chemical Exposure. Open to all interested Base personnel.



Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace

8 Nov 02

Open to workplace supervisors, safety reps, and any interested Base personnel.

Laser Hazards

13 Dec 02

Open to workplace supervisors or Safety Reps.

Asbestos Awareness

20 Dec 02

Mandatory for all building managers and CE personnel.

Hearing Conservation (General)

4 Nov 02

Open to all base employees, recommended for all employees routinely exposed to noise.



Hearing Conservation (Supervisors) – class at 2:00

2 Dec 02

Mandatory for all supervisors and safety reps working around hazardous noise.

Heat Stress

Call 52515 for dates and times. Open to all interested personnel.

Chemical Hygiene –

Call 52515 for dates and times. Open to all AFRL supervisors and safety reps.



Health and Wellness
Center (HAWC)

Call 904-WELL (9355) to get the latest schedule of classes. Class sizes are limited. All classes require pre-registration but are free. Classes will be held at Hangar 22 (Bldg 571) Area B - Wright Field Fitness Center. Many briefings can be individualized and brought to your organization.