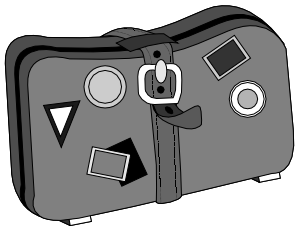


# SAFETY WAVE

## Hazardous Chemical Waste Disposal

As of January 2008, all generators of chemical hazardous waste are being asked to fill out a **Hazardous/Chemical Waste Disposal Inventory Form** before the OEHS will pick up their waste. This procedure is in compliance with several federal and state laws. Also, this is in keeping with the university's commitment to a safer workplace and environment. The new **Hazardous/Chemical Waste Disposal Inventory Form** is located on the OEHS website at the following link:  
[www.som.tulane.edu/oehs/docs/hazWasInvDisFrm.pdf](http://www.som.tulane.edu/oehs/docs/hazWasInvDisFrm.pdf).

## Lithium Batteries Will Travel



Are you aware that if you fly and travel with laptops, video equipment, cell phones, and the like, you may not be allowed on your flight? A rash of fires on planes has spurred the government to plan new restrictions on how airline passengers may carry lithium batteries used to power laptop computers and cell phones. New Homeland Security and FAA rules which take effect January 1, 2008 ban travelers from carrying loose lithium batteries in checked baggage. Passengers are allowed to pack two spare batteries in their carry-on bag, as long as they are in clear plastic bags. If you plan on traveling via the airlines, you need to understand and check new rules concerning batteries in luggage and carry-on. If you do not follow these rules, it may delay or may cause you to miss your flight.

## Worker's Compensation

Worker's Compensation for Tulane University is one program in the OEHS. In the case of a work-related injury or illness involving an employee, the First Report of Occupational Injury/Illness form must be completed and reviewed by the supervisor. The employee should inform their supervisor within 24-28 hours of the occurrence. If medical care is needed, then the employee should seek medical care with their own primary care physician, at the nearest hospital or occupational medicine clinic. Authorization for medical care under Worker's Compensation should be called in to the Manager - Worker's Compensation at (504)988-2869 by the healthcare provider. The OEHS has distributed a list of recommended occupational medicine clinics which employees may use. When you go for medical care, you or your supervisor should have the completed First Report of Occupational Injury/Illness form, and a copy should be given to the healthcare provider. **Do not give them your personal health insurance information.** Also, there is no copayment involved with a Worker's Compensation claim. Payment for medical care for Worker's Compensation claims is coordinated through a third party provider selected by the university.

This and other information on the program was presented to the Departmental Safety Representatives (DSRs) at the time of their January 2008 meetings. To access the most recent material on this program, please go to the weblink  
[www.som.tulane.edu/oehs/ppt/workerscompAdvance.ppt](http://www.som.tulane.edu/oehs/ppt/workerscompAdvance.ppt) and view this as a slide show. If you have any questions, then please contact Ms. Yesenia Vasquez, Manager – Worker's Compensation.



## Department of Homeland Security - Chemicals of Interest - Update

Tulane University has requested and received an extension of 60 days from the Department of Homeland Security to submit a "Top Screen" listing the chemicals of interest present at the university in quantities greater than the screening threshold quantities. The "Top Screen" is now due March 22, 2008. If your laboratory did not submit a chemical inventory in 2007, please submit an inventory to OEHS as soon as possible. A chemical inventory form can be found at <http://www2.som.tulane.edu/oehs/safety/06F-oehs12.pdf>. It is preferred that you submit your inventory electronically in Excel or Access to Pam Fatland at [pfatlan@tulane.edu](mailto:pfatlan@tulane.edu).

As stated in the Holiday Edition of the *SafetyWave*, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently finished its new "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard" (CFATS) which is designed to improve security at facilities which store or handle hazardous materials. The DHS believes that terrorists are attracted to facilities that handle hazardous materials because an attack could result in the release of these materials and thus amplify the destructiveness of the attack. As part of this regulation, any facility, including colleges and universities, which has any of the over 250 specific "Chemicals of Interest" (COI) listed in Appendix A of the standard, in quantities at or above the screening threshold quantities (STQ) listed for each specific chemical, must complete and submit a "Top Screen" questionnaire to the DHS and may be required to conduct a "Security Vulnerability Assessment." The CFATS list of "Chemicals of Interest" includes such common materials as ammonia, propane, chlorine, nitric acid, and acetylene. Based on the information provided to the DHS, institutions will be assigned a risk level with Tier 1 being high risk and Tier 4 being low risk. If assigned a tier level, the facility will also need to develop a security plan for the chemicals of interest. Failure to complete the Top Screen can result in fines and other penalties. DHS will review the Top Screen submissions and determine which facilities will be audited for vulnerability to terrorist attack. If it is determined that Tulane falls under this new law, you will be informed of new chemical security requirements. For information on this new law or to view the list of chemicals of interest, see the DHS website at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).

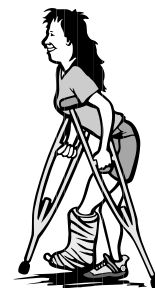
## Departmental Safety Representatives (DSRs)

An important segment of health and safety at Tulane University is the Departmental Safety Representative (DSR) Program. Every unit must have either a faculty or staff member designated as the DSR. If not, then one must be appointed and the following information sent to OEHS: Campus, department, name of DSR, their telephone number, email address, and category such as Office, Laboratory, or Facility. This information should be sent to Louis Mayer, Manager - Training, Education, and General Safety in OEHS at [lmayer@tulane.edu](mailto:lmayer@tulane.edu). Quarterly meetings are held on the Uptown, TNPRC and TUHSC Campuses to provide safety and health information and training to the units through their DSRs. Off-campus facilities such as University Square, Elmwood, Biloxi, Slidell and Covington Clinics, etc. send DSRs to these meetings and thus are included in this program. These meetings are held in January, April, July, and October. In January 2008, we discussed Worker's Compensation with a detailed review of the First Report of Occupational Injury/Illness form. In April, we will be reviewing the self-inspection program. Emails are distributed via the contact lists to the DSRs informing them of the meetings and other important health and safety information from OEHS. If you have any questions, suggestions or other comments, then please contact Louis Mayer at (504) 988-2447.

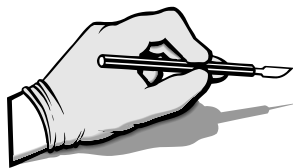
## Summary of Work-Related Injuries & Illnesses for 2007

As required by federal law, the OSHA Form 300A "Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses for 2007" has been completed by OEHS. Campus-wide and individual campus summaries for TUHSC, TNPRC, and Uptown are posted at the following link:

<http://www.som.tulane.edu/oehs/posters.htm>. For questions, contact Mitzi Hithe of OEHS, (504) 988-2866.



## Gloves and Chemical Resistance



OEHS frequently reviews procedures that describe the types of personal protective equipment (PPE) that will be used for a specific project. It is not enough to simply say “gloves will be worn” because there are so many types of gloves, especially when it comes to handling chemicals. Commonly used disposable latex gloves are NOT always well suited for use with chemicals. For an example of this, see this OSHA Hazard Information Bulletin about a Dartmouth College chemistry professor who died from dermal exposure to a small amount of dimethylmercury which penetrated the latex gloves she wore:

[http://www.osha.gov/dts/hib/hib\\_data/hib19980309.html](http://www.osha.gov/dts/hib/hib_data/hib19980309.html).

It is essential that laboratory personnel select the appropriate protective gloves and wear them whenever handling chemicals. The following points should be considered when selecting chemical resistant gloves.

### Selection:

- \* No glove is completely resistant to a chemical. Even the best chemically resistant glove will breakdown after repeated chemical exposure.
- \* Different glove materials resist different chemicals; no one glove is suited for all chemical exposures.
- \* Choose your glove material based on the manufacturer’s chemical resistance data. The chemical resistance of a given glove material can vary from one manufacturer to another.
- \* When selecting a glove, consider chemical resistance, thickness, length of the glove, dexterity requirements, and comfort.
- \* *Latex allergy alert!* Do not wear latex gloves if you think you are susceptible to or have a latex allergy.

### Inspection:

- \* All gloves should be inspected before use for indications of degradation (swelling, cracking, shrinking, or discoloration) and any signs of holes or punctures. A damaged glove should be immediately taken out of service.
- \* Change gloves frequently, especially thinner disposable gloves that have been exposed to chemicals.
- \* If a glove becomes contaminated, it should be removed and discarded as soon as possible.

### Cleaning:

- \* Thicker reusable gloves should be rinsed after use to prolong their life and prevent the spread of chemical contamination from the dirty glove.
- \* Never reuse thin disposable gloves.

### Removal:

- \* Remove gloves before leaving the immediate work area to prevent contamination of door knobs, light switches, telephones, elevator controls, etc.
- \* When removing gloves, pull the cuff over your hand and turn the glove inside-out.
- \* Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after wearing gloves.

If you need assistance selecting a glove, contact OEHS.

## Ethidium Bromide Disposal Guidelines

Ethidium bromide has mutagenic properties that may present a human health hazard. Only aqueous solutions containing <10ug/ml (10 ppm) may be released to the sanitary sewer. Aqueous solutions containing >10 ug/ml must be treated or disposed as chemical waste. If the solution is filtered, the filtrate can go down the drain, but the filter should be disposed as chemical waste. Waste gels should be placed in a sturdy bag, then in a cardboard box, label it as “Hazardous Waste - Ethidium Bromide,” and dispose of it through the hazardous waste program. **DO NOT USE RED BAGS** for ethidium bromide waste, waste gloves, paper towels, or sharps contaminated with ethidium bromide. Contaminated sharps should be placed into sharps containers and disposed through the Hazardous Waste program. Contact Bruce McClue for more information, (504)988-2865.

## Exploding Lithium Battery Incident



Be cautious when choosing batteries. Lithium batteries are used in equipment such as flashlights, cell phones, laptops, cameras, etc. Recently an incident occurred at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in which a flashlight containing two different types of lithium batteries spontaneously combusted and vented inside the flashlight. The flashlight was being carried in the employee's shirt pocket with the lens facing up. The energy produced from the explosion inside the sealed flashlight body resulted in both ends of the flashlight being propelled from the body of the flashlight, splitting the bottom seam of the employee's shirt pocket. The employee received only minor abrasions and did not require treatment. Luckily the force of the venting was not directed towards the eyes of the employee.

Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations when choosing a battery to use in flashlights and other equipment. Read the warnings and small print before installing. Never mix batteries, not by manufacturer or by type. Never mix old and new batteries. Always remove and replace all the batteries in any device at the same time. Always replace the batteries with batteries from the same package or with the same expiration date. Avoid at all costs batteries that have unequal charges. Do not carry lithium powered flashlights close to the face or use close to flammable materials. (See related article on carrying lithium batteries when traveling - pg 1)

*Information for article taken from ORNL Safety Flash, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 2/6/2008.*

## Preventive Maintenance and Housekeeping

Do not put off preventive maintenance to save money. Preventive maintenance is essential. Just as regular service to your car is important, so is maintenance to your equipment. Failure to service equipment regularly may save you money in the short term but can cost you severely when you look at the big picture. The ultimate cost could be a major property loss, injury, or fatality. (The I-35 bridge collapse in Minneapolis is a perfect example.)

Along with preventive maintenance, housekeeping also plays a major role in providing a safe workplace. Trip and slip hazards such as wet floors or cords across aisles, uncleaned spills and powders, sharps that are not picked up or disposed properly, and over-crowded shelving and countertops can contribute to many incidents. When is the last time you tidied your lab/work area? Are your personal protective equipment items such as gloves and protective eyewear in good shape? Are equipment cords frayed and in need of repair? There is no time like the present to make a difference. Why not have a quick look around and see what you can improve!

*Information for article taken from "Preventive Maintenance," Journal of Chemical Health & Safety, November/December 2007, pg. 29.*

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