

FEBRUARY 2010

**Radiation Safety Staff**

**Radiation Safety Officer**  
Mack Richard, M.S., C.H.P.

**Assistant Radiation Safety Officers**  
Jeff Mason, B.S.  
Kathi Haldeman, B.S.

**Health Physicist**  
Carra Roberts, B.S.

**Waste Technician**  
Mike Johnson

**Purchasing Coordinator**  
Judy Savage

**Secretary**  
Debbie Phillips

**Radiation Safety  
Orientation  
(CL 154)**

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30 am – 11:00 am**

**Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm**

**Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:30 am – 11:00 am**

Radiation Safety Office  
Clinical Building 159  
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Fax: 274-2332  
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Radiation Safety Website  
<http://radsafe.iusm.iu.edu>

This newsletter is issued quarterly in February, May,  
August, and November.

# Radiation Safety Newsletter

## Holiday Schedule

The RSO will be closed for the following holidays:

University Holiday

Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Please keep this in mind when placing orders and scheduling waste pick-ups.

## Training

All new radioactive material users, including temporary personnel (e.g., summer students, interns, etc.), and individuals previously approved who have left the university or have not been listed on a permit for a period of two years or more are required to attend the Radiation Safety Orientation. A completed Radiation Safety A-3 form, *Authorization to Use Radioactive Materials*, should be submitted to the RSO prior to the initial use of radioactive materials. This form can be obtained from our office or from our website. After receiving this form, our office will send an email notification to register for the next orientation. Please make sure to register on-line to confirm adequate classroom space for all attendees. In addition to attending the orientation, all new radioactive users with inadequate training/experience with radionuclides must attend the Radiation Safety Course. Temporary employees (i.e., individuals working in a lab for less than 6 months) are required to complete the orientation but not the course. These individuals must be supervised during their work with radioactivity. Once six months have passed, all temporary individuals will be removed from the applicable permits.

## Sabbatical

If a Permit Holder (PH) is scheduled for an extended leave (i.e., one month or more) from the University, the RSO must be notified regarding the status of the permit while the individual is away. The PH may designate an individual to act on their behalf during their absence; however, the designee must meet the same requirements of the PH (the RSO must approve the designee). The PH may also elect to suspend the permit until his/her return.

If labs are found where the PH is gone for an extended period of time, and no designee is found, the RSO may choose to confiscate all radioactive material until the PH's return. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

## Counting Rooms

Each Radionuclide Use Permit must list an approved counting room if such instrumentation is not located within the laboratory. Often times, this is the only piece of equipment used by the lab in that room, and therefore it is listed on the permit as a "Specific-Use Area." Please remember to include these rooms in your survey cycle. You are not responsible for surveying the entire room or laboratory; however, you should survey the counting equipment at a minimum. By doing so, we can be assured that these common equipment areas receive the appropriate survey attention by each laboratory using them.

## LSC/Gamma Counter Channels

If you look at the printouts from your LSC and gamma counters, they usually show the region of interest for the counting results (i.e., “channels”). This is the range in energy that the counter is detecting and recording. You should always know the energy of the nuclides you are working with to assure that the protocol you are using for your counting is appropriate for adequate detection. The last retraining sheet sent to the labs in October 2009 listed all commonly used laboratory radionuclides along with their energies. This training sheet can be found on the Radiation Safety Website (<http://radsafe.iusm.iu.edu>). Refer to your equipment manual or contact our office for assistance in establishing appropriate counting channels.

## Positioning of Pipettes

While performing our lab audits, we notice pipettes hanging over the edge of lab benches. As a reminder, you risk contaminating the floor or individuals who may brush up against them. Regardless of the material used in the pipettes, they should be placed securely on lab benches to prevent them from falling and breaking.

## Minors in Hazardous Areas

We wish to remind individuals of the university policy as it applies to minors in hazardous areas (including radionuclide labs). The policy is that no minor may be in these labs unless they are a student, employee or authorized participant in a university sponsored program. This policy can be found at the Office of Risk Management website. A link to this website can be found on the Environmental Health and Safety website at <http://ehs.iupui.edu>.

## Lead in Radwaste

As a reminder, labs should not place lead shields (e.g. “pigs”) in radioactive waste containers. The lead is considered a hazardous material and must be disposed of separately. Empty vials should be removed from the lead shields and placed in the waste boxes. The lead shields should then be checked by the labs with a survey meter to ensure no contamination is found. If the lead shields are clean, the labels must be defaced and Environmental Health and Safety should be contacted for disposal. If the lead shields are found to be contaminated, the RSO should be contacted.

## Cut-Off Times

As a reminder, all radioactive materials must be ordered through our office. The cut-off time for ordering is 3:00 pm. Any order placed after 3:00 pm may not be ordered that day.

In addition, the cut-off time for scheduling a waste pick-up is 3:00 pm the day before the pick-up.

