

Winter
2013



Lab
Notes



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LABORATORY SAFETY

Chemical Waste Compliance Inspection Follow-Up

In the Summer Edition of Lab Notes, we discussed the findings of a June 4th chemical waste compliance inspection conducted on campus by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The inspection brought to light a number of compliance deficiencies – most notably in campus laboratories and most notably involving unlabeled waste dump containers or waste containers left open after having had waste added.



Please click [here](#) for an update provided by Kevin Mouser on the status of the violation letter as well as the response by the campus and corrective actions taken.

Laboratory Compliance

RESOURCES

[Chemical Hygiene Plan](#)

[Laboratory Safety Handbook](#)

[Find an MSDS](#)

[Biosafety Manual](#)

[Online Hazardous Waste Manifest Form](#)

[Online Training](#)

[Daily Eyewash Inspection Checklist](#)

[EHS Homepage](#)

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CONTACT US

| Total Severity Score | Laboratory Safety Grade | Comment |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 0 | A+ | Perfect! |
| 1-5 | A | Excellent |
| 6-10 | B | Good |
| 11-15 | C | Average |
| 16-20 | D | Poor |
| > 20 | F* | Failing |

You received your Laboratory Safety Survey and you did not get a perfect score, now what do you do? Our Laboratory Safety Survey is intended to provide you with more than just a list of safety issues discovered during the inspection process. The report will also detail any corrective action taken by our staff during the inspection process and provides you with a letter grade for the safety condition of your laboratory. To read more about what you do if you have safety violations please click [here](#).

Fume Hood Safety



As I walk through our laboratories on campus I continue to find laboratory personnel improperly using fume hoods. Just as with any device, for it to work properly you must use it properly.

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For example, you don't expect your house to heat properly if you have boxes sitting on all of your floor registers blocking the airflow or you don't expect your car window to protect you from the wind while driving down the interstate if the window is rolled all the way down. I am sure you also would not expect your fireplace to contain the smoke if a lit log is hanging out of the fireplace just as you don't expect your heating bill to be cheap or your furnace to operate efficiently if you leave the front door open in the winter because you don't want to have to keep opening and closing the door.

All of the above scenarios are synonymous with the most prevalent mistakes laboratory personnel make when using a fume hood. To read about the most common fume hood mistakes please click [here](#).

Radiation Safety Newsletter



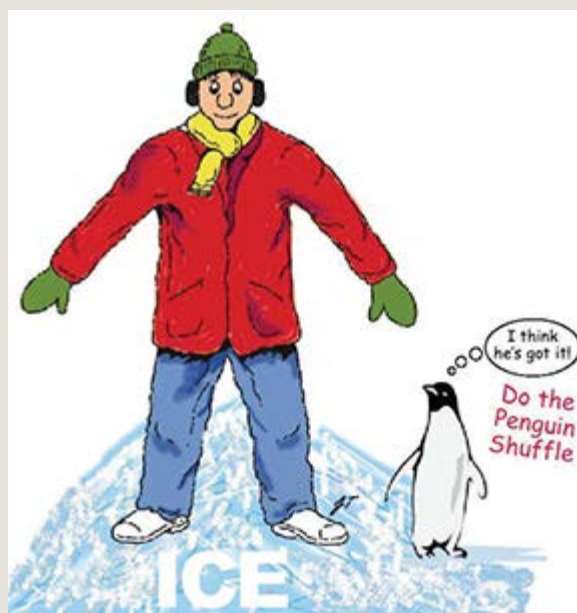
During a recent routine inspection of the IUPUI

campus by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) the inspectors found two (2) research laboratories where radioactive material was unsecured and the lab was unattended – these are considered violations of NRC regulations.

At this time the NRC is still deliberating this entire issue, so the need for escalated enforcement has yet to be determined. Their decision is partially driven by what immediate corrective actions we put in place at the time and also what our continued corrective actions will be to solve the problem.

To find out more about the inspection findings as well as corrective actions taken by the university please click [here](#).

Stay Warm and Walk Safely on Ice and Snow



Lab Notes is a quarterly publication by the IUPUI Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

Lab Notes is designed, edited and published by K. Lee Stone.

"Don't Learn Laboratory Safety by Accident!"