New Chemical Safety Procedure Includes Requirements for Chemical Inventory

UT Arlington has recently adopted Chemical Safety Procedure 8-11, which establishes requirements for laboratories and shops that utilize chemicals at the University. The purpose of this policy is to:

1) prevent personal injury from exposure to chemical hazards;
2) prevent damage to UT Arlington property;
3) prevent chemicals and chemical waste from polluting the environment;
4) comply with applicable federal, state, and local guidelines and requirements; and
5) establish efficient and effective use of chemicals.

Topics addressed in the policy include inspection of labs and shops; hazardous waste disposal; chemical spill response and reporting; requirements for and testing of safety equipment (i.e. fume hoods, safety showers, eye washes); donation of chemicals; and compliance with the Hazard Communication Act.

Another section of the policy concerns chemical inventory management and implements new procedures that Principal Investigators (PIs) and Shop Supervisors should be aware of.

Each Chemical Environmental Management System (CEMS) PI/chemical owner, or their appointed delegate, must conduct a semiannual physical count of chemical inventory at their respective locations and reconcile this to the CEMS inventory, noting and reporting any discrepancies on Form 8-102. If a semiannual inventory is not feasible, an alternative inventory schedule may be submitted to EH&S for approval using Form 8-101.

CEMS users can follow these steps to help prevent and eliminate chemical inventory discrepancies:

- Contact EH&S every time a new chemical container arrives at your lab or shop following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Request to Inventory New Chemicals;
- Enter Inner Location for every new container following the SOP-Add Inner Location;
- Mark container empty on CEMS as soon as the chemical has been used up following the SOP-Update Inventory;
- Attend EH&S CEMS training for a refresher. Contact the CEMS Administrator at 817-272-2185 to schedule training;
- Refer to documentation in the Quick Links window of the CEMS Home page (http://cems.uta.edu) to help you navigate through CEMS.

Additionally, chemicals past the manufacturer’s expiration date must be disposed of properly. To request an exception, the chemical owner must submit a Justification to Retain Expired Chemicals Form (8-100).

Please visit the CEMS website for more information and a complete list of SOPs. EH&S would like to thank everyone for their support and cooperation in complying with this new chemical safety procedure.

Evacuation Route Maps Now Online

Whenever you enter a building, it is important to identify exit locations in case an evacuation is necessary. A written evacuation plan for emergencies is essential for each major University building. Building evacuation routes or maps provide an accurate layout of the building and multiple exit routes from a location.

Take time to locate the evacuation route maps posted for your floor/building. Keep in mind that exits may change temporarily during building renovations. Obstacles impede evacuation. Storage of any items in the corridors, stairwells or other exit ways is prohibited. If you notice a blocked exit in your building or any other building on campus, please report this to EH&S at ext. 2-2185.

... continued on page 3
(see a sample map)
School is out and summer signals family vacations and long road trips, but here are some statistics anyone planning to drive should consider. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the principal causes of about 100,000 police-reported road crashes each year are driver drowsiness and fatigue. Drowsiness is as dangerous to driving as falling asleep at the wheel. Most drivers have experienced fatigue and the trance-like state caused by staring too long at the white lines in the center of the road. Road trance can result in slow perceptions and reaction times, and can leave drivers unable to remember how they reached their destination.

Symptoms of driver fatigue and road trance:
- Burning sensation in the eyes
- Eyelids feel heavy
- Limbs feel heavy, or light and tingly, or numb
- Inability to focus eyes
- Muscles begin to twitch
- Back tension
- Yawning
- Thoughts wander and are disconnected
- Breathing becomes shallow

There are some very basic causes of fatigue. Lack of sleep or poor quality sleep is often compounded by poor diet, being overweight, lack of exercise, and consuming alcohol. In our daily lives it is sometimes difficult to eat a balanced diet, get adequate exercise, or even have a restful sleep. A long road trip, or driving for a living, can create even greater obstacles to our well being. This is why we need to take an active part in prevention when it comes to driving in a tired or distracted state.

The following are some recommendations to help prevent driver fatigue and road trance:
- Plan to eat a healthy, well-balanced diet
- Aim for seven or eight hours sleep
- Start out as early in the day as possible
- Eat a light meal before driving, not a heavy one
- Avoid driving alone whenever possible
- Keep trips to reasonable distances
- Try to avoid long night drives
- Avoid soft music, and change radio stations often
- Talk to passengers without being distracted
- Watch for road and traffic signs
- Drive with an upright posture, with legs at a 45 degree angle
- Take breaks every two hours or 100 miles
- On break, get out of the vehicle and walk, jog or stretch
- Avoid driving during hours when you would normally be sleeping
- Stop to eat snacks or light meals
- Avoid alcohol and any medications that might cause drowsiness
- Sing, chew gum, stretch, vary driving speeds, and listen to the radio to keep alert
- Wear sunglasses only during daylight hours
- If it is essential, pull over and take a nap of no more than 20 minutes. Any longer will make you feel groggy.

These suggestions will help avoid accidents that often result from driver fatigue and road trance. An alert driver is a safe driver.

This article was reprinted from the Safety & Health Publications section of the Texas Department of Insurance website.

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**Safety Recall Notice - Surge Protection Devices**

APC by Schneider Electric has issued an important safety recall for surge protection devices manufactured before 2003. Some of these devices can overheat under abnormal conditions, posing a possible fire risk to persons and property.

EH&S has identified and collected numerous units during routine building fire inspections. To find out if you have a recalled unit, look for the bar code label on the bottom or rear of surge strip. The two numbers that follow the first letter(s) in the serial number sequence indicate year of manufacture. The unit is included in the recall if the number is from 93 through 02. Products made in 2003 or later do not pose a hazard.

The affected devices are cord-connected APC SurgeArrest brand products in the 7- and 8-series. Go to the website [http://recall.apc.com/en](http://recall.apc.com/en) to see a list of included model numbers.

If you have one of the recalled products, stop using the surge strip and call the EH&S office. EH&S will dispose of the strip and is coordinating with the company in the claims process to obtain equivalent replacement products at no charge.

Find Us on Facebook: UT Arlington Environmental Health & Safety Office
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory illness first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. This illness is caused by a coronavirus called MERS-CoV. The origins of the MERS-CoV are unknown. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of May 28, 2014, there have been 636 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV, including 193 deaths. Laboratory confirmed cases have mostly been reported in and near Arabian Peninsula countries. In some instances, the virus has spread from person to person through close contact. However, there is currently no evidence of sustained spread of MERS-CoV in community settings.

MERS in the U.S.

Reports of the first two confirmed imported cases of MERS in the United States—the first in Indiana on May 2, 2014, and the second in Florida on May 11, 2014—have resulted in large scale multi-state investigations and responses aimed at minimizing the risk of spread of the virus.

Symptoms/Vaccine

Most people who have been confirmed to have MERS-CoV infection developed severe acute respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

What is MERS?

There is no available vaccine or specific treatment recommended for the virus at this time.

Guidelines to avoid the MERS virus

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently providing the following recommendations:

For the general public— the CDC advises that people help protect themselves from respiratory illnesses by taking everyday preventive actions such as:

- washing their hands often;
- avoid touching their face with unwashed hands;
- avoiding close contact with people who appear sick; and
- disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

For travelers— CDC currently does not recommend that anyone change their travel plans. If you are traveling to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, CDC recommends that you pay attention to your health during and after your trip. CDC officials advise those who develop MERS symptoms within 14 days after traveling to this region to call their doctor and inform them of their recent travel before going in for an appointment.

Evacuation Routes (continued from page 1)

A preplanned meeting place for evacuated occupants should be at least 200 feet from the building and clear of fire hydrants and access roads. Studies show that when occupants plan, implement, and practice evacuation procedures, they are better able to protect themselves and others.

Copies of available evacuation route maps for University buildings can now be viewed, downloaded, and/or printed from the EH&S Fire & Life Safety web site.
In a study of the molecular effects of UV light on the skin of mice, scientists have shown that sunscreen alone cannot be relied upon to prevent malignant melanoma, the most deadly form of skin cancer, according to research published in *Nature*.

UV light directly damages the DNA in the skin’s pigment cells, increasing the chances of developing melanoma. The research explains more about the mechanism by which UV light leads to melanoma and also explores the extent to which sunscreen is able to prevent UV light from damaging healthy cells. The study also showed that sunscreen can greatly reduce the amount of DNA damage caused by UV, delaying the development of melanoma in the mice. But, very importantly, this study provides proof that sunscreen does not offer complete protection from the damaging effects of UV light.

“We’ve known for some time that sunscreen, when applied properly, can help protect our skin from the harmful effects of the sun’s rays. But people tend to think they’re invincible once they’ve put it on, and end up spending longer out in the sun, increasing their overall exposure to UV rays,” says Dr. Julie Sharp, head of health information at Cancer Research UK. “This research adds important evidence showing that sunscreen has a role, but that you shouldn’t just rely on this to protect your skin.”

This work highlights the importance of combining sunscreen with other strategies to protect our skin, including wearing hats and loose-fitting clothing, and seeking shade when the sun is at its strongest. Take care not to burn—sunburn is a clear sign that the DNA in your skin cells has been damaged and, over time, this can lead to skin cancer.

* See the complete article at [ALN Magazine](https://www.alnmagazine.com/). ALN covers topics and information related to laboratory animal facilities in the U. S. and Canada.

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### EH&S TRAINING COURSES

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<td>Confined Space Entry</td>
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<td>Respirator</td>
<td>BioSafety Level II</td>
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<td>Hazard Communication Training</td>
<td>Hearing Conservation Training</td>
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<td>Radiation Producing Machines</td>
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### Defensive Driving Course (DDC)

This course must be completed every 3 years to remain an authorized driver of UTA vehicles. Driving record checks (MVR) must be renewed annually.

**15-Passenger Van Training:** Individuals should take the online course first. A behind-the-wheel driving test is also required and will be conducted on the dates and times below. **Class size is limited, so please call ext. 2-2185 to register ahead of time.** Meet at the EH&S office, 500 Summit Ave. Drivers must have already taken the Defensive Driving Course and have a current driving record check to attend.

| July 9—2:00 pm | August 13—2:00 pm | Sept. 10—2:00 pm | Oct. 8—2:00 pm |
| July 22—10:00 am | August 26—10:00 am | Sept. 23—10:00 am | Oct. 21—10:00 am |

**Call us at ext. 2-2185 to schedule other required training available through our office, such as:**

- Hot Work Safety
- Powered Industrial Truck
- Radioactive Materials
- Shipping Infectious Materials

**Fire Extinguisher Training** will be provided to groups on request. Please call ext. 2-2185 to schedule.

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**Rescued Opossum Returned to Wild**

“Nedd” was rescued from the large lecture room in Nedderman Hall in late April. At a mere 78 grams he was severely dehydrated and starving. After 8 weeks under the care of EH&S Safety Specialist Laura Warren, who is also a permitted wildlife rehabilitator, Nedd was healthy and weighed 1.5 pounds (680 grams) when he was released back into the wild.

**BEFORE—April**

**AFTER—June**