

The OEHS Safety Update Newsletter is distributed by the UCSF Office of Environmental Health and Safety. Please send comments to OEHS Safety Update Newsletter: editor@ehs.ucsf.edu Box # 0942 476-1300

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## 2002 RECHARGE RATES

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) is announcing the new recharge rates for 2002.

For information on the OEHS Administration Program, and discussion on recharge rates, visit the OEHS Website at <http://www.ehs.ucsf.edu>

Select the Programs link, then continue to the Administration page. From there you will find the recharge rate table (the rates are primarily for radioisotope use) covering items such as:

- Instrument Calibration
- Wipe Test - Visit
- Wipe Test - Decon
- Radioactive Waste



# SAFETY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

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OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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## SAFETY ALERT

### LACK OF PPE LEADS TO WORKER INJURY, LESSONS LEARNED

A chemist, at a Department of Energy (DOE) contract facility, was severely burned when a flask he was holding ruptured, spraying him with a highly caustic sodium hydroxide solution.

The chemist was working alone, performing a routine activity that had been done many times before, i.e., mixing reagents in a Nalgene flask in preparation for a controlled experiment. He knew the sodium solution he created was exothermic and that the flask should have been left open, but in this incident he capped the flask by mistake.

The build-up of heat and pressure in the flask caused it to suddenly rupture and spray caustic solution on the chemist and parts of the laboratory.

The chemist immediately rinsed himself in an eyewash/shower, but was later found to have first, second, and third degree burns to his hands, face, and torso.

Burns to one eye were the most serious of his injuries. Full recovery of his vision remains questionable.

Had the chemist been wearing goggles, gloves, and a laboratory coat, his injuries would have been far less severe. Laboratory guidance suggests that such personal protective equipment (PPE) be used.



A search of Occurrence Reporting Processing System (ORPS) reports found several other accidents at DOE laboratories during recent years.

In one case, a glass flask ruptured causing wounds and bruises to a laboratory worker.

This past May, a graduate student at a sister campus broke two pieces of laboratory glassware while attempting to separate them, and received a cut on the hand that later became infected and required hospital treatment. Had the student worn appropriate PPE such as heavy gloves, the cut could have been avoided.



### BRUSH WIRES PUNCTURE PAINT REMOVER CAN

An aerosol can on a workbench was accidentally punctured when particles from a brushing operation flew across the bench and struck a pressurized can containing flammable paint remover.

The technician, at another laboratory, was in the process of removing paint from a large hook in preparation for a magnaflux inspection. When the worker started brushing the hook with the power brush, a particle projected across the table striking and puncturing the can about 1 inch up from the base.

This caused the contents to violently spew from the can while it spun wildly on the bench. The liquid sprayed the employee around his head, shoulders and back.



(Continued on page 3, see Aerosol)

## PRODUCT ALERTS

### RECALL OF MICROWAVE-HOOD COMBINATIONS

Whirlpool Corp., of Benton Harbor, Michigan and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are recalling an estimated 1.8 million microwave-hood combinations. These units can overheat and catch fire.

Whirlpool has received seven reports of fires involving these microwave-hood combinations. These incidents have resulted in extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported.

#### Product Details

- The product being recalled is the microwave oven and exhaust fan hood combination unit that is installed above ranges. They are sold under the Whirlpool, KitchenAid and Kenmore brand names.
- All units have serial numbers that begin with XC. To locate the serial and model numbers, open the door and look inside.
- Department, electronics, home and appliance stores, as well as builders and remodelers, sold the microwave-hood combinations nation-wide from January 1998 through September 2001 for between \$249 and \$749.
- Countertop microwaves are not included in this recall.

#### Recommended actions

1. Immediately stop using the microwave-hood combinations

and disconnect the units by unplugging them.

2. Consumers can call Whirlpool Corp. for free repair either by calling (800) 785-8897 anytime or through the Whirlpool web site at [www.whirlpool.com](http://www.whirlpool.com). Have the model and serial numbers of the units available when calling or visiting the web site.

#### Where to Get Help or More Information

Notices regarding product recalls may be found at the Consumer Product Safety Commission Website <http://www.cpsc.gov> under "Recalls/News." Search Category: Product Alert, Whirlpool Microwave-hood Combination.

### RECALL OF NOTEBOOK COMPUTER AC ADAPTERS

Compaq Computer Corp., and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced the voluntary recall of AC Adapters and power cords used with certain Compaq notebook computers in the U.S.

Compaq is replacing approximately 600,000 of the defective units. These adapters can overheat, posing a fire hazard. Compaq has received five reports of fire that were contained to the cases of the AC adapters. No injuries were reported.

#### Product Details

- This recall involves AC adapters with the model series number "PPP003SD", "PPP003" and "PP2012".
- The series number is located directly under "Compaq Computer Corporation" on the AC adapter label.
- The AC adapters were sold individually with the following notebook computers: Armada 110, Armada M300, Armada M700, Armada E500, Armada E500s, Armada V300, Armada 100s, Armada 3500, Notebook 100, Prosignia 170, and Prosignia 190.

#### Recommended Action

1. Stop using the recalled AC adapter and power cord. Contact Compaq to order a free replacement AC Adapter.
2. For more information, call Compaq at (888) 302-7689, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday, or go to the firm's web site at <http://www.compaq.com>

#### Where to Get Help or More Information

Consumers can visit the Compaq website at <http://www.compaq.com>



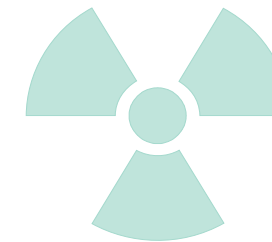
## FLOURESCENT ORANGE FOR 2002 RADIATION SURVEY METER CALIBRATION LABELS

For 2002, the color of the calibration labels for radiation survey meters will be Fluorescent Orange.

The labels for 2001 were yellow; labels prior to 2001 were white. We color-coded the calibration labels to assist your identification of survey meters needing re-calibration.

#### Reminder

Any survey meter out of calibration must be isolated to prevent use. In



addition, you should attach a label to the meter indicating the need for re-calibration (and repair if required) before meter re-use.

For questions on this regulatory requirement, please contact your DSA or call the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at 476-1300.

#### Note:

Were the batteries removed from your survey meters, or similar equipment, before being placed in storage?

### NEED OR WANT TO GET RID OF LAB CHEMICALS OR SUPPLIES?

Check out the Chemical & Supply Surplus Exchange (LCSSE) Program Website at [www.ors.ucsf.edu](http://www.ors.ucsf.edu) or find a direct link to the program from the OEHS Website at [www.ehs.ucsf.edu](http://www.ehs.ucsf.edu). You can post information on the on-line posting board about excess items you may have as well as search for items you need.

From the website:

- Select the category of interest from the pulldown menu.
- Another screen will appear with an identical pulldown menu, in which you select "Submission Forms".
- Complete the form and submit it directly on line.
- It will be sent to the OEHS Webmaster who will post the ad on the board within 24 hours of receipt. You will receive a confirmation and the opportunity to make any changes to the form at the time of completion and via the email.



We will continue to refine and update the website as necessary. If you have any questions or suggestions about the program, feel free to send an email to [webmstr@ehs.ucsf.edu](mailto:webmstr@ehs.ucsf.edu) or call 476-1300.

(Aerosol, Continued)

The employee moved quickly to the washbasin in the shop and thoroughly rinsed the paint off.

This action along with the protection of his PPE (safety glasses, hard hat and shirt) contributed to the employee experiencing only slight chemical burns on the upper portion of his body.

#### CONCERN

This unexpected puncture of an aerosol can could have resulted in a very extensive and serious burn injury had the contents ignited as it spewed from the can. The employee could have become engulfed in a cloud of fire.



#### RECOMMENDED ACTION

When conducting work that could generate flying metal particles, make sure that aerosol cans or other pressurized vessels are moved away from the immediate work area, or are placed in an appropriate storage area or locker.



**Please have all personnel in your lab initial here as evidence of continuing education & keep this newsletter in your logbook.**

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