



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

- Articles in this issue:
- Mercury Thermometer Exchange
 - Hazard Communication
 - Asbestos Containing Construction Materials Notification
 - Mold and Cal/OSHA Regulation
 - John Shaver's Retirement
 - Employee and Service Awards

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EMPLOYEE AND SERVICE AWARDS!

PETE RAMOS received an Employee of the Month Award from the Office of Research Services. He was nominated by his fellow employees for this award and will receive a gift certificate.

FOUR OTHER EMPLOYEES RECEIVED SERVICE AWARDS.

MARCIAL AGUINALDO , HMM Principal Technologist	20 years
PETE RAMOS , Campus Principal Technologist	15 years
JUAN MARTIN , Fire Marshall	15 years
RON OTTLEY , Campus Senior Technologist	10 years

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



SAFETY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

UCSF RESEARCH NEWS JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2003 VOLUME 03, NUMBER 1

MERCURY THERMOMETER EXCHANGE

In an effort to help rid households of a potentially hazardous item, UCSF's Millberry Union Bookstore will become the city's first permanent site for exchanging mercury thermometers for safer digital thermometers.

Household thermometers may be exchanged anytime during the Bookstore's normal hours Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program is a joint effort of the City of San Francisco and UCSF.



Digital Thermometer.

Two and half years ago, San Francisco banned the manufacture and sale of mercury thermometers in San Francisco and their use in city-owned hospitals. Eugene Lau, Director of the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) at UCSF approached city officials, offering the campus' help.

"We wanted to do something good for the community," said Lau. "Our department and staff have always been active in environmental cleanup and other community efforts."

The Millberry Bookstore is a central location where city residents can safely drop off mercury thermometers and obtain digital versions.

The thermometers will be taken by Millberry staff, sealed in a zip-lock plastic bag, and placed in a specially lined and protected five-gallon drum, which will be picked up SF's hazardous waste disposal services.

"The campus OEHS, which has staff available 24 hours a day, and trained Bookstore staff on handling the thermometers, will be available in case of emergency", said E. Lau.

The official December 3, 2002 inauguration of the Mercury Thermometer Exchange Program was also attended by Jack McGurk, Chief of Environmental Management Branch, California Department of Public Health, Jared Blumenfeld, Department of the Environment, City and County of San Francisco, and San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell.

For its efforts, UCSF received an award from the environmental group, California Health Care Without Harm.

This exchange program is only for household mercury thermometers.

(Continued on pg. 3, See Thermometer)

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

Recently the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) Emergency Response Team (ERT) received a call from one of the UCSF laboratories regarding a spilled chemical.

The laboratory contact reported on the phone that she was unfamiliar with the chemical's hazardous properties. When questioned about a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), the lab contact had never heard of MSDS.

After the ERT responder located the MSDS, it was revealed that the spilled chemical was highly toxic. After a few tense moments it was determined that no significant chemical exposure had occurred and the spill was cleaned up without further incident.

California Hazard Communication standard states that all chemicals used in California must have an MSDS and all individuals that handle these chemicals must be appropriately trained.

It is the responsibility of lab supervisors to ensure that all staff are trained in the hazards associated with chemicals used in the lab including how to access MSDSs.

(Continued on pg. 3, See Hazard Comm.)



ASBESTOS CONTAINING CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS NOTIFICATION

California law requires employees to be informed about the known locations of asbestos containing construction materials (ACCM) and about the status of asbestos containment efforts.

To meet the intent of this law, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) has posted this information

- ⇒ at its web-site,
- ⇒ in the HSIR display case on the 3rd floor lobby,
- ⇒ in the Main Library and,
- ⇒ distributed copies to other personnel via intercampus mail and e-mail.

Most UCSF-owned buildings contain ACCM that was used extensively as thermal insulation, fireproofing, surfacing materials, acoustical treatments and in fire doors.



The mere presence of ACCM does not necessarily mean that a health hazard exists. Specifically, these materials do not present a health threat unless the asbestos fibers become airborne and are inhaled.

If the materials might be disturbed during construction, repair, or asbestos removal activities; specific procedures must be followed.

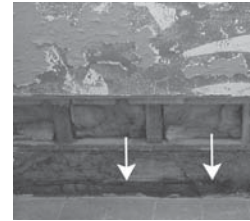
OEHS maintains records of building surveys as well as air sampling results performed during past abatement work.

These records are available and may be viewed by interested employees by calling OEHS at 476-1300.

MOLD AND CAL/OSHA REGULATION

Mold problems often occur following some type of water damage. Whether a flood has occurred or a pipe inside a wall is leaking, high water activity can lead to mold growth.

Mold appears as a wooly, filamentous growth and can grow on almost any substance.



Arrows point to mold on wall.

It has an affinity for anything that is constructed from or resembles a cellulose-based material such as wallpaper, carpet backing and furniture upholstery. It can even grow on gypsum board, ceiling tiles, clothing and photos.

Mold grows by developing hyphal strands that can appear long and hairy to the naked eye. The hyphae develop specialized microscopic structures called conidiophores that create spores. Mold propagates by releasing spores similar to a plant releasing seeds.

The spores travel either through the air or by direct contact with a person or animal.

When they land on a substrate suitable for growth and have adequate moisture, they begin to grow into new mold colonies. In short mold is everywhere and it can never be completely eliminated.

The key to controlling mold is to eliminate moisture. Without adequate moisture mold cannot grow.

This is why it is vital to take care of any ongoing moisture problems whether they are from a leaking window, pipe, water bath etc.

Recent rainfalls exacerbate moisture sources and it is important that the source of water intrusion be eliminated. If you notice any water seepage, contact your building manager if you cannot easily resolve the problem.

Early detection and elimination of moisture will go a long ways towards mold prevention. As a matter of fact, Cal/OSHA recently has taken this strategy for mold issues.

Cal/OSHA is the State agency that enforces occupational regulations and has passed an addendum to its Sanitation Standard, T8CCR3362:

“When exterior water intrusion, leakage from interior water sources, or other uncontrolled accumulation of water occurs, the intrusion, leakage or accumulation shall be corrected because of the potential for these conditions to cause the growth of mold.”

Employers that do nothing to prevent or correct water intrusion, leakage, or uncontrolled accumulation of water can now be cited by Cal/OSHA.

So please be vigilant and help us minimize mold problems by controlling moisture!

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

JOHN SHAVER'S RETIREMENT

John Shaver joined UCSF in 1973 as the Assistant Director of the Radiological Health Sciences Education Project located in the Department of Radiology.

Dr. Reynold F. Brown directed this project, which was funded by the FDA's Bureau of Health for 14 years and was extremely successful.

During the term of the project, significant contributions to the training of future radiologists were made.

Issues ranging from the assessment of mammography as a routine screening procedure (then a very controversial topic) to the utility of the skull x-rays to determine fracture were studied and nationally reported by the Project.



John Shaver (L) receiving an Appreciation Award from Ara Tahmassian, Associate Vice Chancellor, UCSF.

In 1987, John joined OEHS as the OEHS Training Coordinator under the direction of Dr. Roy Balzer. He was later appointed Deputy Radiation Safety Officer and worked for Dr. Ara Tahmassian, the newly appointed UCSF Radiation Safety Officer. Together, they brought the program back to a position of prominence.

In 1992, John was named Program Manager of Environmental Permits and Monitoring. This unit was saddled with responsibility to obtain a myriad of newly required environmental permits, the most complex of which involved assembling and submitting a comprehensive room by room chemical inventory of all UCSF labs.

As the Laurel Heights and Mount Zion sites were acquired and occupied, John worked closely with the University Planning Office to assist in the Long Range Development Plan and in the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports (EIR's).

He was active in preparing EIR's for three additional sites identified as candidates for new campuses. He represented the UCSF in community meetings and with agencies concerning environmental issues at these sites.

The site ultimately chosen, Mission Bay, is now beginning to be occupied and John has actively represented OEHS views in the design and development of this campus.

In 1998, Dr. Ara Tahmassian, as Director of OEHS, reorganized the department and named John to manage the Hazardous Material Management Program.

During this period, John was instrumental in developing a system-wide contract for chemical waste disposal. Getting the nine campuses to agree on a single contract was no small task, but it was accomplished and continues to be a successful project and highly cost effective.

John is an avid golfer and active member of the UCSF Golf Club. He frequently golfs with his UCSF friends and plans to play more often during retirement.

He and his wife, Lucy, plan to spend their winters in their Arizona home, play golf, hike and attend a few Spring training games when his beloved A's are there. When the A's return to the Bay Area, John expects to follow them back and root them

on to another world championship (something he hopes his Giant friends might experience someday).

John's antics will surely be missed. As Eugene says, "OEHS will not be the same when he retires. We will truly miss John."



(Thermometer, continued)

Mercury containing products such as thermometers should never be thrown into the trash. They end up in landfills and can leak mercury into the environment.



If your laboratory needs to discard any mercury product (including thermometers), please call OEHS. We will pick-up and properly dispose these materials. If needed, contact OEHS at 476-1300 for more information.



(Hazard Comm, continued)

OEHS routinely provides general lab safety training that includes proper handling of hazardous materials.

Individual lab workers should never take a lab chemical off the shelf until they have a thorough understanding of its chemical hazards, including what precautions must be taken in the event of an chemical spill, exposure, or other emergency.



This information is all available in the chemical specific MSDS.

