SPRING LABORATORY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Spring Cleaning Chemical Inventory Checklist

Spring cleaning is not just for garages and yards but should also be done in laboratories to purge out old, expired or unwanted chemicals. Here are few suggestions:

- Use the EHS Assistant Chemical Inventory system to properly maintain an accurate inventory.
- Review and update your chemical inventory as this is required for all labs using chemicals.
- Use a Northeastern barcode when you add a chemical to your chemical inventory.
- Remove the barcode and the chemical once you have used it up from your chemical inventory.
- Remember: Each lab supervisor is responsible for maintaining and updating his/her inventory.
- The Chemical Inventory Guidance document is available on our website.

Please contact the EHS Office at (617) 373-2769 or email ehs@neu.edu with any questions.

Incidents Related to Collecting Nitric Acid Waste in Recycled Solvent Bottles

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) has become aware of a few incidents at other universities where old solvent bottles were used to collect nitric acid resulting in serious explosions. EHS currently provides mostly new waste containers but we do provide recycled solvent bottles to labs that need this type of container. These bottles make great hazardous waste collection containers however laboratory workers need to be aware that chemical residuals may still remain inside. If you are collecting anything other than a solvent waste, please insure compatibility with your waste or be certain the container is 100% empty.
SPRING LABORATORY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

X-Ray Equipment Registration, Training and Posting

Working with x-ray radiation is useful and important, but it can also be dangerous if those who operate this equipment become over confident or complacent about the hazards.

The MA Department of Public Health – Radiation Control Program requires all x-ray diffraction (XRD) or fluorescence (XRF) equipment to be registered. The EHS office handles the registration process so please contact our office if your lab obtains or purchases a new piece of x-ray equipment.

In addition to equipment registration, x-ray safety training is required for all workers in a lab with x-ray equipment. This training is done on an as needed basis so please contact our Radiation Safety Manager to set up a day and time for this session.

Lastly, proper posting of all laboratories with x-ray producing equipment is required. EHS will assist with the posting of the laboratory as part of the registration process.

If you have any questions or plan to start working with x-rays in a research lab, please contact the EHS Office at (617) 373-2769 or email ehs@neu.edu.

New Online Ergonomic Computer Workstation Training

Many of us spend several hours a day sitting at our desks, using a computer, and conducting business on the telephone. Often times, we try to perform all of these tasks at the same time, over and over again, without the right ergonomic equipment or tools that have been properly adjusted to meet our specific needs. This may lead to serious discomfort, even injury, and ultimately have a negative impact on employee health and productivity. An Online Ergonomic Computer Workstation Training has been recently put together to provide office and lab workers an understanding of how to design a workstation that is properly adjusted to "fit" you.

To take this training please visit our Online Training Management System located at this address: https://ehsa.nunet.neu.edu/ehstrn/EHStrainwebsapi.dll