EH&S Welcomes Christina Kasauskas

Christina joins the EH&S team as the Laboratory Safety Specialist. In her role, she guides faculty researchers in maintaining their lab spaces, promotes best practices for student researchers and helps to ensure all lab safety compliance is properly met. Prior to joining EH&S, Christina had been an administrator in the Bouvè College of Health Sciences Dean’s Office. She is an alumna of Northeastern’s Health Science program and is working towards a Masters of Public Health (MPH). In her free time, Christina enjoys camping, swimming, and developing new recipes in the kitchen.

Training Updates and Tips

Avoid Glitches:

- Use a Reliable Browser, such as Firefox or Chrome
- Follow the modules in order
- Complete the quiz in each module before logging out

Coming Soon this Fall:

- Brand-new Radiation Safety training programs
- New Laboratory Safety Refresher program
- Hazard Communication/Chemical Safety for shops and studios
Chemical Recycling Guide for BioRAFT’s ChemTracker Module

Hazardous waste minimization is an important goal of Northeastern University. By safely recycling or sharing chemicals on campus, we can reduce hazardous waste volumes generated on campus. Recycling or sharing chemicals also reduces Northeastern’s overall environmental footprint. By consuming less chemicals, we ultimately generate less hazardous waste, which saves the university money. We are hopeful that BioRAFT’s chemical recycling feature will be one of a number important steps we can take in achieving our campus-wide hazardous waste minimization goals. The following procedure was prepared to assist our research community recycle or share chemicals on campus:

**Set Chemicals to “Surplus” for Recycling in BioRAFT’s ChemTracker Module:**

1. Click on the “ChemTracker” tab within your BioRAFT home page to view your laboratory’s chemical inventory
2. Locate the chemical for recycling and click “Edit”
3. Change chemical status to “Surplus” and click “Update” (refer to the right)

**Search for “Surplus” Chemicals in Other Labs:**

1. Click on the “ChemTracker” tab within your BioRAFT home page
2. Click “Find Other Chemicals” above your lab name heading
3. Prepare a chemical search by typing the name and checking the “Surplus” box
4. Click “Submit” (refer to image to the right)
5. Review search results and reach out to lab that is offering chemical via email by clicking the lab group link
September marks both the beginning of the fall semester and the start of National Preparedness Month. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is a global nonprofit that has led numerous events during National Preparedness Month and provides significant guidance for laboratory safety. The NFPA creates codes and standards with the goal of eliminating all fire-related death, injury and property loss.

Northeastern University remains in compliance with the Boston Fire Department regulations by posting NFPA signs at every laboratory entrance on campus. If you have ever entered a Northeastern laboratory, then you have passed a NFPA door sign. These signs contribute to the protection of our research community by providing important information to first responders during an emergency. In practical use, these signs would be referenced by a first responder when making determinations to don the specific personal protective equipment that would best prevent injury while attending to an emergency. Improving these signs would, therefore, lead to improvements in emergency response to that laboratory.

Northeastern’s Environmental Health and Safety team has an update to the current NFPA door sign system underway, and encourages all laboratory staff and student researchers to review their door sign information on the online BioRAFT system. The primary investigator, or the appropriate designee, should confirm that both the digital and physical door signs are accurate. Guidance to this process has been distributed via email, but please contact Laboratory Safety Specialist Christina Kasauskas with any questions or concerns related to this update.

**Caption:**
This Rating Explanation Guide illustrates how emergency responders use the NFPA signs when making their own decisions to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (Occupational Safety and Health Administration U.S. Department of Labor 2016).

**Citations:**