LSU

Life Line

Volume 27 Issue 3 October 2011

By Mike Durham

Director's Log

Change is coming in our safety and environmental program on campus. It is an exciting time for our department and I want to share what is happening with you.

First, our organizational structure has changed. The Director, EHS has assumed the additional duty of Acting Director, Risk Management. The EHS staff is now reporting through Michael Hooks, our Assistant Director, EHS. Also, our EHS staff members are moving during the next several weeks to a new location, to the second floor of the Copy and Mail Center on South Stadium Drive. Currently most of our EHS staff is housed in the Public Safety Building and the Wetland Resources Building (behind ROTC). This new location will consolidate our offices into one location and improve our effectiveness and accessibility. We hope to have the move from the Public Safety Building completed on November 1.

Secondly, we are kicking off a new emphasis program on preventing and responding to accidents on campus. The closer relationship between Risk Management and EHS provides an opportunity to improve our response to injuries, by investigating them more thoroughly, and providing action plans for prevention of similar accidents in the future. We have assembled a team from organizational units across campus to review proposed improvements in policies and procedures relating to accident investigations and follow up, handling injuries, and returning employees to the workforce as soon as possible. The plan for this new program comes from a study of past injuries, including those injured employees who are off work and a close look at the procedures we use for following up on accidents and injuries.

Thirdly, we are working toward implementing the provisions of LA GRAD Act 2.0, as it is commonly called, by developing plans for our autonomous Risk Management program. Combining this opportunity with the new emphasis on prevention of accidents and injuries will result in cost savings to the university, improved productivity and a more safety conscience, cohesive employee community on campus. It is indeed an exciting opportunity for LSU and our employees.

These changes could not come at a better time, as our injury rate has been higher this year than last year. A quick look at the accident data in this newsletter tells the story. Too many accidents!

Inside This Issue

Hazardous material handling

DO NOT POUR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL Down the drain!

The Office of Environmental Health and Safety provides pick-up and proper disposal of Hazardous waste.

If you handle hazardous material, **proper disposal is the law**. There are 5 simple steps for proper disposal of hazardous material on campus:

1. Collect waste in a container that is compatible with the waste
2. Label the container with the name of the waste material
3. Keep containers sealed when not filling
4. When approximately 80% full, complete a request for Hazardous waste pick-up form.
5. You will be contacted to arrange for pick-up of the material by E.H.S.

The link to the hazardous waste procedures are located on our website:

www.ehs.lsu.edu

Year-To Date Accidents

During the first 9 months of 2011, there have been 213 accidents reported to Risk Management

Link to Summary of Accidents

If You spill it…..Clean it!

Recent injuries have resulted after someone spilled coffee, water, or other liquids on the floor, and did not clean it up.

We All must work to prevent injuries by eliminating hazards.

If you spill it….Clean it up!

Diane's muffins

1 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup flour
1 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup butter
2 eggs

Mix first three items, then add butter and eggs, mix well.
Place equally in sprayed muffin pan (lined with muffin cup paper)
Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees in oven.
(Can also use small muffin pan; reduce cooking time to 10-15 minutes, let cool in pan before removing)

What Happens in a Chemical Release?

Shipping hazardous material containers is highly regulated. Manufacturers, shippers and users of hazardous materials are trained in the safe handling of these materials.

Occasionally, the container is involved in an accident and the material is released into the environment. This accidental release can occur anywhere, not just along railroad tracks, or within chemical plant corridors.

Typically, the material's vapor will travel with the wind. It forms a "chemical plume" which is either narrow (higher wind speeds) or wide (slower wind speeds). As the plume moves away from the sight of the release, it becomes less concentrated. (See graphic in other column) The rate of dissipation varies due to several factors which include air temperature, humidity, solar energy, and characteristics of the material.

Professional responders use "Emergency Response Planning Guides" (ERPG) to determine the initial evacuation distances, based on the material released.

Until Professional responders arrive, you may have to take immediate action depending on your location and the location of the release to prevent or minimize exposure.

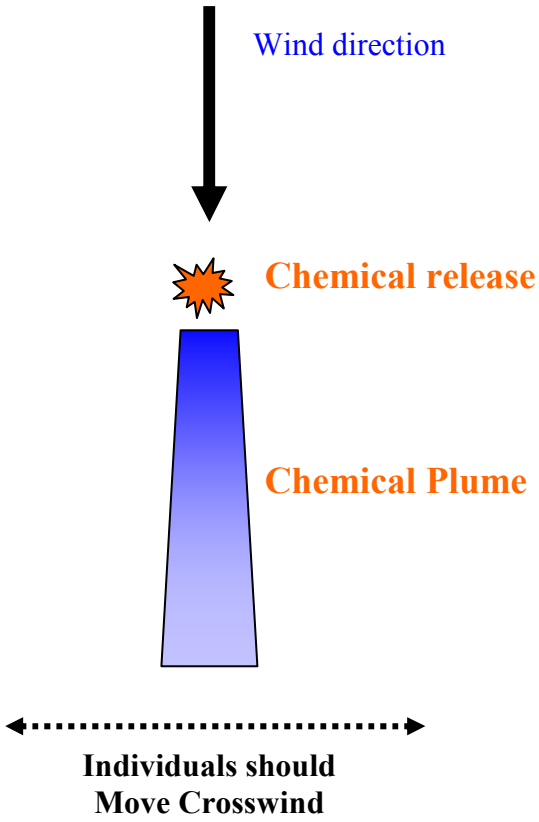
Actions to take in event you are caught in a chemical release:

Try to **move Crosswind** *(face wind direction and go left or right*) from the release until you are out of the Chemical plume

OR

Go indoors if possible, and **shelter in place**

a. Shut all window and doors
b. Turn off air conditioners and heaters (Equipment that moves Air)
c. Tune to local emergency radio or television for further instructions



Lab Safety Accreditation Certificate Presentations

A recent Lab Safety Accreditation awards reception was held in the Student Union. Congratulations to all the Labs for their diligence and work in obtaining the Safety Accreditation Certificates:

Dr. Justin Ragains, Dr. Isiah Warner, Dr. Azeem Hasan, Dr. Megan Macnaughtan- Department of Chemistry
Dr. Marcia Newcomer, and Dr. Grover Waldrop-Department of Biological Sciences
Dr. Mileva Radonjic- Craft and Hawkins Department of Petroleum Engineering
Dr. Ji-Ming Feng-School of Veterinary Medicine, Comparative Biomedical Sciences Department

Making the presentations were: Dr. Thomas Klei-Vice Chancellor, Research and Economic Development; Dr. James R. Moroney– Chair, Biological Sciences; Dr. Andrew Maverick-Chair, Chemistry; Dr. Karsten Thompson-Chair-Department of Petroleum Engineering; Mike Durham-Acting Director, Risk Management, and Bob Ardoin- Coordinator, Office of Environmental, Health, and Safety.

Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety

WARNING: High pressure cylinders hiding!

Recent reviews of campus departments have found improper handling and storage practices of compressed gas cylinders.

Cylinder Storage

- Store cylinders in upright positions and secure by chains or other means to prevent them from being knocked over.
- Separate flammable and oxidizing gas cylinders by a minimum of 20 ft or by a 5 foot high fire-resistant partition. Minimize quantities of flammable or toxic gasses stored indoors.
- Store cylinders away from highly flammable substances, electrical connections, gas flames or other sources of ignition,.
- Store cylinders away from excessive heat, continuous dampness, salt or other corrosive chemicals, and any areas that may subject them to damage.
- Store and label "full" cylinders away from "empty" cylinders.
- Store all compressed gas cylinders so they do not interfere with exit paths.
- Store cylinders in dry, cool, well ventilated areas at temperatures below 125ºF, away from sources of heat.
- Store in secured areas that are fire resistant and permanently posted with the names of the gases stored in the cylinders.

Cylinder Maintenance

- Alterations/repairs to the cylinder beyond the tank or regulator and valve must be made by the cylinder supply vendor.
- All compressed gas cylinders are subjected to periodic hydrostatic testing and interior inspection by the supplier.
- Visually inspect all compressed gas cylinders and their valves for damage. Check all cylinder connections (pressure regulators, manifolds, hoses, gauges, and relief valves) for integrity and tightness.
- Regularly "leak test" connections to compressed gas cylinders using an approved leak detecting liquid. Ordinary soap solution may contain oils that are unsafe when used with oxygen cylinders.
- Do not paint cylinders without authorization by the owner/supplier.

Cylinder Valves

- Keep cylinder valves closed at all times, except when in use. AVOID leaving cylinder valve open when not attended.
- Cylinder valve covers should be in place at all times when cylinders are not in use.
- Never use wrenches or other tools for opening and closing valves. For valves that are hard to open, contact the supplier for instruction.
- Always use a suitable pressure regulating device to deliver compressed gas to systems requiring lower pressure than the cylinder pressure.
- Establish procedures in the event a compressed gas cylinder leak cannot be remedied by simply tightening the valve:
  a. Remove cylinder to a well ventilated outdoors location.
  b. Attach tag to the cylinder stating it is unserviceable.
  c. If the gas is flammable or toxic, place an appropriate sign at the cylinder warning of these hazards.
  d. Notify the gas supplier and follow his/her instructions as to the return of the cylinder.

Other Cylinder Precautions

- Label all compressed gas cylinders with their contents and precautionary warnings clearly marked on their exteriors.
- Never move compressed gas cylinders, even short distances, by dragging across the floor. Always use a suitable hand truck.
- Prohibit the use of compressed gases (air) to clean clothing or work surfaces.
- Compressed gases should only be handled by experienced and properly trained people.
- DO NOT ORDER Lecture bottle samples or quantities. Lecture bottles are **not returnable**, and require limited, expensive disposal.

Link to Laboratory Safety training

Walking Pedestrians should stay alert!

Recent accidents off campus involving pedestrians being hit by moving vehicles brings to the forefront the need to be careful and attentive to pedestrians while driving, and to vehicles while walking.

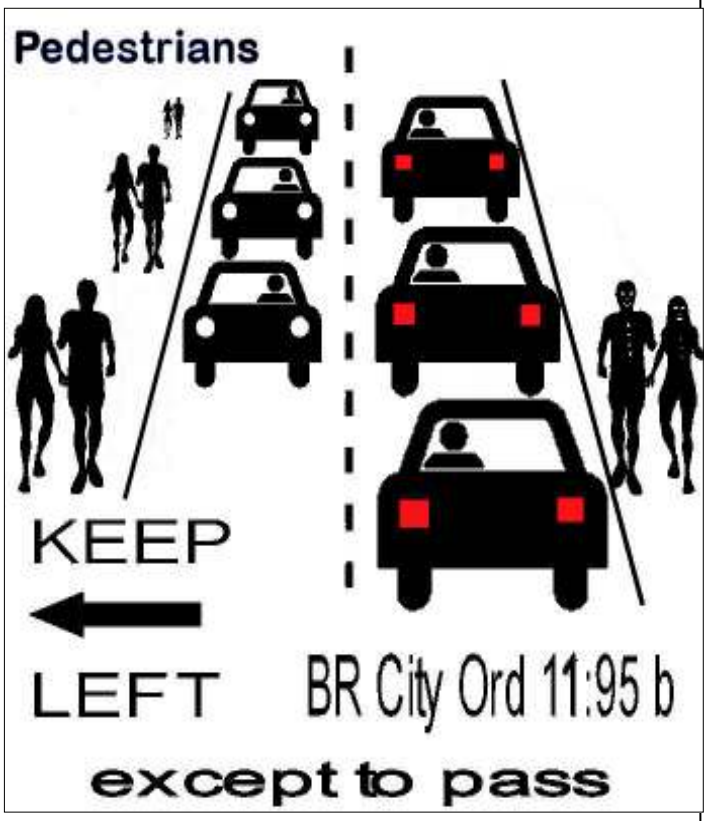
Last year, one reader suggested that pedestrian Safety be reviewed, since he and his wife exercise by walking around the lakes, and they often see people walking the wrong direction, and jeopardizing their own Safety.

CODE OF ORDINANCES CITY OF BATON ROUGE,
Title 11 TRAFFIC CODE; CHAPTER 8.
Sec. 11:95. Pedestrians on roadways.

(a) Where sidewalks are provided it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.

(b) Where sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction.

* *When walking along a roadway* ***Face on-coming traffic*** *and be ready to step out of the roadway*
* *Wear bright-colored clothing at night*



Thanks Bob Zinn for the input and picture!

Preventing Back Injuries

Many occupations require routine lifting. But lifting anything the wrong way can result in a serious back injury, requiring weeks to recover.

Keep you back pain-free by following the following guidelines:

* Plan your work
* Gently stretch your muscles to warm up
* Use dollies or other mechanical equipment when possible
* Lift and carry loads that you can handle safely
* Lift with your legs not your back
* Never twist
* Carry the load close to you body
* Lower loads slowly, bending the knees

Eight steps to lifting safe

1. Maintain a wide stance and solid footing.
2. Keep back straight while bending at the hips and knees to a squatting position.
3. Tighten stomach muscles
4. Get a good grasp of the load.
5. Keep the load close to your body.
6. Lift steadily with the legs, while looking straight ahead.
7. Keep arms and legs both pointed in the direction of travel.
8. Remember to maintain your spine's natural curves.

Free Paint

Facility Services has surplus paint in various colors that cannot go to state surplus, but can be used for University business. If you would like to pick up paint, contact David Perault at 578-5567.

++++ Safety Meetings ++++

As a minimum, Department Safety meetings should be conducted Quarterly. This newsletter can be used as safety meeting material. Please route through your department via e-mail and request a "return receipt," or circulate with "sign-in" sheet containing printed name/date/ and initial.

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