



Safety Matters

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~ Safety ~
The measure of success

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Inside This Issue...

Avian or Bird Flu	pg. 2
Shoe-mobile on campus	pg. 2
Uranium & Thorium Compounds	pg. 3
Reap the Benefits of Spring Cleaning	pg. 3
EH&S Directory	pg. 4
Give an Old Friend a Second Chance	pg. 4
Have You Looked at Your Lab Chairs Lately?	pg. 4

UC Irvine Receives UCOP Presidents Award for Excellence for Second Consecutive Year!



UC Irvine Safety Team:

At the University of California annual Risk Summit, the "University of California, President's Award for Excellence in Environmental Health & Safety" was awarded to the Campus with the best overall Safety rating as compiled from the 2005 OSHA 300 data submitted by each campus. This data measures both the Loss Prevention and the Loss Control efforts of the campus for the year.

The award, for the second straight year, went to the UC Irvine EH&S Department, the Workers Compensation division within HR and the total UCI Safety Team.

I would like to congratulate the UC Irvine Safety Team once again for its outstanding effort to help reduce the cost of risk and to ensure a safe & healthy campus environment at UCI.

Joe S. Adams, CSP
EH&S Director, UCOP EH&S



\$\$ Earn EH&S Safety Dollars \$\$



Modeled after UC Irvine, Parking & Transportation's "Alternative Transportation Courtesy Dollars," Environmental Health & Safety is introducing "EH&S Safety Dollars" as a campus incentive and recognition program. "EH&S Safety Dollars" are intended to:

- 1) Reward and thank "Safety on Site (SOS) Representatives" for achieving specified safety goals.
- 2) Reward campus members for demonstrating on-the-spot safe behaviors and acts.

AVIAN OR BIRD FLU

The slow spread of Avian Flu, or bird flu, across the world and the possibility of a flu pandemic has been in the news headlines in recent weeks. Here at UCI, an interdisciplinary group representing many campus departments has been developing a response plan in the event of a pandemic affecting Orange County. The Orange County Health Care Agency has partnered with UCI to develop the plan to coordinate with local planning efforts. The campus pandemic plan includes progressive actions in response to progressive phases as identified by the World Health Organization. More information regarding the campus response plan is available on the EH&S website.



What is pandemic influenza?

Pandemic influenza is a global outbreak caused by a new influenza virus. If the virus mutates to spread easily among humans, serious illness and death may ensue without the development of adequate prevention or treatment. There has been three occurrences of pandemic influenza in the last century. Timing and consequences of pandemic flu are difficult to predict.



What is bird flu (H5N1 Avian Influenza)?

Bird flu is a disease of wild and domesticated birds. Some human cases have been reported, mostly from direct contact with infected birds or their droppings. There has been limited person-to-person transmission, mostly in households with birds. Confirmation of person-to-person transmission is difficult to make.

Can bird flu become pandemic?

If the flu virus mutates so that it is easily spread from person-to-person, a pandemic is possible. The World Health Organization and many other international and national organizations are working together to monitor the situation.

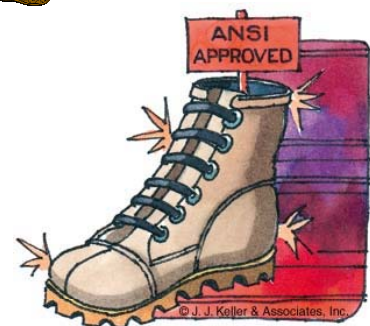
What can individuals do to prepare for pandemic flu?

As with any emergency planning, maintain essential supplies such as food and water. Review and update your emergency supply kit. If the pandemic occurs, be prepared for daily life to change for a while, such as travel restrictions or limited public events. Stay informed by following these websites: <http://pandemicflu.gov/>, <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/index.htm>, or <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/af/>.



SHOE-MOBILE DAY

Date: June 7, 2006
Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: EH&S Parking Lot – Building 41



*****Please refer to your Departmental Guidelines/Safety & Work Shoe Policy*****

Uranium and Thorium Compounds

Natural uranium and thorium compounds such as uranyl acetate, uranyl nitrate, thorium nitrate and thorium oxide are frequently shipped under the limited quantity exemption, and as such do not require a radioactive materials label. However, even though the manufacturer's bottle does not have a radioactive materials label, that does not exempt the material from radioactive waste regulations.

All forms of uranium or thorium waste must be disposed of as radioactive waste, rather than as hazardous chemical waste. Examples include uranyl acetate, uranyl nitrate, uranyl formate, uranium oxide, thorium nitrate and thorium oxide. Although these compounds are easy to obtain, they're not so easy to dispose of. Not only must they be disposed of as radioactive waste, but special arrangements must also be made with the waste broker for their packaging, pickup and disposal.

Every year, these materials are become more expensive and difficult to dispose. Please dispose of any unwanted materials promptly and limit the amount that you order. To dispose of your uranium and thorium compound waste please visit <http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/enviro/> and submit an online Radioactive Waste Collection request.

Reap the Benefits of Spring Cleaning

Springtime is here. Let's welcome the season by reducing clutter and organizing our work units. Items like accumulated cardboard boxes, old magazines, catalogs, papers and broken or outdated electronic equipment are good examples of items that contribute to clutter.



When we clear clutter, we make room for new thoughts and ideas and the work presently at hand. Organizing bookshelves, desk and file drawers and making decisions to discard information with no foreseeable need make the workspace more safe, functional and relevant to the present (subject to [UC Irvine record retention requirements](#) of course). Pay special consideration to reducing overhead storage of items no longer needed to reduce crowding and falling object hazards. All of these are powerful steps toward making the workplace more safe, productive and less stressful. Reducing clutter and unneeded papers also reduces the risk of fire. The less the combustible load, the lower the fire risk.

Laboratory housekeeping involves additional actions. Lab appliances that are no longer useful should be eliminated from the lab to reduce crowding. Items that are old and rusty and sit in the same place year after year take up important space, obstruct pathways and can be a subconscious drag on everyone's mood. Old chemicals that have questionable histories or quality should be transferred to EH&S. This reduces unnecessary crowding and helps prevent chemical incidents.



Make a commitment with your colleagues to set aside some time for spring cleaning. By working together, decisions can be made quickly as to what can be discarded, what should be saved and how best to organize the workspace.

[EH&S collects](#) all hazardous waste including chemicals, electronics, refrigerators and freezers.

For large paper and trash clean outs, contact the Facilities Management Service Desk (824-5444). They can help arrange for larger containers for paper recycling and making it easier to get rid of discarded items.

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Give An Old Friend A Second Chance

Disposing of your old monitor in the trash is not only illegal but also bad for the environment. Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) monitors contain between 5 to 10 pounds of lead that when improperly managed can pollute the land, lakes, and ground water.

As rain falls on the landfill, the water becomes contaminated with lead from the fine particles of leaded glass from degrading CRT monitors. Eventually, the lead and other toxic metals leach out of the landfill and into the groundwater.

Do your part to protect the environment. Recycle your old monitor by submitting an EH&S Universal Waste Collection request available online at www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/enviro/. Help give an old friend a second chance. The ecosystem will thank you.

Have You Looked At Your Lab Chairs Lately?

Are the fabric seat cushions covered in stains or can you easily clean them if they become contaminated? According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health, lab furniture must be easily cleanable and able to withstand decontamination procedures should they become contaminated with biological material.



To follow good microbiological practices, chairs and stools should be covered with a **non-fabric and non-absorbent material** like plastic, vinyl or leather finish that can be easily cleaned. Various styles are available through a number of vendors and prices are comparable to fabric chairs. For more information on selecting chairs appropriate for laboratory use, contact EH&S at 824-6200.

