

news & notes

SECURITY TROUBLE SPOTS

UC Irvine takes reasonable steps to ensure your security on the job. But there are some security trouble spots where you need to be alert and take special precautions.

- **Stairwells and out-of-the-way corridors.** Be alert when entering stairwells and hallways, especially when no one else is around. Report any strangers or suspicious activity in these areas.
- **Elevators.** Don't get into elevators with people who look out of place or behave in a strange or threatening manner. If you find yourself in an elevator with someone who makes you nervous, get off as soon as possible.
- **Restrooms.** Attackers can hide in stalls and corners. Be extra cautious when using restrooms that are isolated or poorly lit.
- **After hours.** Let someone know if you're working late. Make sure you're near a phone. Keep your doors locked if possible. Create a buddy system for walking to parking lots or public transportation or call x4-7233 for a safety escort.
- **Parking lots.** Always lock your car and roll the windows up all the way. When it's dark, carry a flashlight or keep to the brightest lit areas of the lot. Don't walk too close to parked cars. When you approach your car, have the key ready. Check the floor and front and back seats before getting in. Lock your car as soon as you get in. Report any strangers hanging around the parking lot to the police at x4-5223.

EHS & Safety Matters

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Workplace Security

Are you taking steps to keep safe on the job?

Workplace security is an important issue for everyone these days. With the threat of violence, terrorism, and crime, you can't be too careful. To find out if you're doing enough to keep yourself and the workplace safe and secure, answer yes or no to the following questions.

	YES	NO
1. Do you follow UC Irvine's security policies and procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Do you enter and leave the workplace through assigned doors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you keep unauthorized strangers from entering the building with you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you direct strangers to the reception area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Do you accompany visitors to and from your department?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do you keep security doors locked at all times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you report any suspicious individuals or activities in or around the facility immediately?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are you especially careful when entering or leaving the facility and in the parking lot or in remote parts of the premises?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do you also take special care in stairwells, elevators, and restrooms?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Do you guard keys and employee IDs carefully and refuse to lend them to anyone?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do you refuse to bring packages into the building for anybody?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Do you try to walk with others when you enter or leave the building if it's dark outside?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Do you carry your car keys or transit fare in your hand when you leave the building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Do you check under and inside your vehicle before unlocking it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. If you're working late, do you make sure somebody knows where you are and when you're leaving?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How secure are you? Any no answers mean you may be putting your personal security as well as the security of co-workers at risk. Don't wait for something bad to happen. Take action now to make our workplace more secure.

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Do you ship Hazardous Materials or Dangerous Goods?

What are hazardous materials or dangerous goods?

- **Radioactive Materials***
- **Genetically Modified Microorganisms**
- **Biologic Materials or Products**
- **Chemicals**
- **Infectious Agents**
- **Diagnostic Specimens**
- **Cultures and Stocks**
- **Insects**

If you package hazardous materials or dangerous goods for shipment or ship any of these materials, you must have specialized training on the shipment of Dangerous Goods or the materials must be packaged by Environmental Health and Safety. For assistance with Dangerous Goods Shipments, please contact EH&S at x4-6200.

*If you need to ship Radioactive Materials, EH&S must package and ship the Radioactive Materials. UC Irvine Laboratories are not allowed to package radioactive materials shipments. For assistance with Radioactive Materials Shipments, please contact Kathi Harkness at x4-4862 to arrange shipment.

If personnel have completed Dangerous Goods Shipping Training and would like to be certified by EH&S to ship hazardous materials or Dangerous Goods, please complete the Intent to Ship Hazardous Materials or Dangerous Goods Form and submit to EH&S for approval. For assistance with Dangerous Goods Shipments, please contact EH&S at x4-6200.

Select Agents and USDA High Consequence Livestock Pathogens

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Select Agents and USDA High Consequence Livestock Pathogens are a list of Infectious Agents, Biological Toxins and Livestock Pathogens that have the potential to be used as Bioterrorist weapons, such as Anthrax, Botulinum Toxin or Tetradotoxin. If your laboratory transfers, possesses, or performs research with any of these materials, you must notify the UCI Biosafety Officer Susan Weekly at x4-9888 or sweekly@uci.edu. Your laboratory may be required to register with the CDC or USDA prior to initiating research with these materials and you will be required to complete Select Agent Training at EH&S, perform a quarterly inventory of materials, and follow additional security requirements.

Biological materials regulated as Select Agents are listed on the web page below. Read about exemptions and restrictions that may apply to these materials, and how to register for their use at:

<http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/biosafety/selectagents.html>



What is Safety Footwear?

Protective footwear represents a wide range of foot protection from “Safety-Toe Footwear” or “Metatarsal Footwear” to proper work attire such as “Closed-Toe Shoes” (No sandals or open-toed shoes). The need for protective footwear depends on specific job tasks and their potential foot hazards. The area supervisor, using EH&S as the Job Safety Analysis resource, can determine the appropriate protective footwear for specific job tasks and hazards. It should be noted that such protective footwear does not take the place of safe work practices and proper material handling equipment, which are always primary in the safe handling of materials and substances. Protective footwear is a secondary measure that is intended to prevent injury or reduce the injury severity in the event of an accident.

Safety-toe footwear are shoes which have a steel toe cap underneath the leather toe cap that protects the wearer’s toe from moving or falling objects. Safety-toe footwear needs to comply with Cal/OSHA Standard §3383 for occupational foot protection. Protective footwear shall meet the requirements and specifications of the American National Standard for Personal Protection-Protective Footwear, ANSI Z41 1991/1999. Examples of work that may require foot protection include operations involving warehouse operations; moving operations involving heavy equipment; work involving close contact with large animals; and jobs requiring work with certain chemicals, or any other work where there is a danger of foot injuries from falling or rolling objects, objects piercing the sole, or exposure to electrical hazards.

If you believe you need protective footwear, discuss it with your supervisor and get approval for your purchase. If there is a question of whether protective footwear is needed for your specific job function, the supervisor will schedule a Job Safety Analysis assessment with EH&S. Each department has their own policy for use and acquisition of Protective Footwear.

As a service to the campus community, EH&S periodically will schedule for Mobile Safety Shoe vendors to be on campus:

Location: EH&S Services Facility Parking Lot,
4600 Bison Ave., Building 41
Vendors: Redwing Shoes, 1427 S. Main Street, Santa Ana,
(714) 543-1449
Iron Age Safety Shoes, 14145 Red Hill Avenue,
Tustin, (714) 832-2013

EH&S will be happy to provide additional information and support concerning the proper use and limitations of protective safety footwear. If you have any questions regarding Protective Footwear, please contact David Mori, Safety Engineer, at x4-9940.

ACCIDENT FACTS...

If you think taking safety and health precautions on the job isn’t that important, think again. Just look at the facts:

- **Every 5 seconds** somebody suffers an injury or illness on the job.
- **Every hour** 750 workers are injured or become ill at work.
- **Every day** 17 people lose their lives on the job.
- **Every year** more than 6 million workers end up on the injured list.

If you don’t want to become a statistic, don’t take risks--**take precautions!**

... HOW’S YOUR SAFETY ATTITUDE?

A safe attitude means that you’re . . .

- **Informed**—You pay attention during safety training and ask questions about anything you don’t understand.
- **Serious about safety**—You follow safety rules and procedures at all times.
- **Alert**—You identify hazards and protective measures before starting a job.
- **Focused**—You always concentrate fully on what you’re doing.
- **Team-oriented**—You take responsibility for your own and others’ safety.
- **Fit**—You get enough rest and exercise and don’t work under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The best way to prevent accidents and injuries is to develop and maintain a constant awareness of safety and a positive safety attitude at all times.



Microwave Oven Safety

by Rick Mannix and Rocky Dendo

Microwave oven cooking is quite popular because of the speed with which food can be heated. In conventional ovens (**convection-type ovens, normally**), the oven's interior, including the walls and the air, must be heated, and the heat is then transferred to the surface of the food. The heat is subsequently transmitted by conduction to the interior portions of the food. This process is **very** inefficient and slow.

Microwaves have three characteristics that allow them to be **useful** in cooking: they are reflected by metal, **so it is easy to shield a microwave oven**; they pass through glass, paper, plastic, and similar materials; and they are absorbed by foods -- though they cannot make foods radioactive. **The radiation emitted by radioactive atoms and microwave radiation is entirely different with regards to energy and the biological effects they can produce if misused.**

In microwave oven cooking, the interior of the oven is not heated; all of the energy is absorbed by the food. In addition, since microwaves penetrate to a depth of 1-2 centimeters below the surface of the food, *direct deep heating* of food occurs. Thus, the volume of food that must be heated by conduction is greatly reduced.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration enforces a limit for the amount of microwave radiation (a form of non-ionizing radiation) that can leak from an oven throughout its lifetime. This limit is 5 milliwatts of microwave radiation per square centimeter at approximately 2 inches from the oven surface. This is **very** far below the level known to harm people. Furthermore, as you move away from an oven, the level of any leaking microwave radiation that might be reaching you decreases dramatically. Also, microwave ovens are required to have two independent interlock systems that stop the production of microwaves the moment **the oven door latch is released or the door is opened**. In addition, a monitoring system stops oven operation in case one or both of the interlock systems fail. The noise that many ovens continue to make after the door is opened usually comes from the internal fan. The noise does not mean that microwaves are still being produced. There is no residual radiation remaining in the oven after microwave production has stopped. In this regard, a microwave oven is much like an electric light that stops glowing **immediately** when it is turned off.

When compared with other electrical appliances found in the kitchen, the *microwave oven presents no unusual hazards when it is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.*

Certain safety precautions must be followed when using a microwave oven:

1. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. **Never** modify the oven without consulting with the manufacturer!
2. Never tamper with or inactivate the oven door interlock which should be tested under controlled conditions at least once per year.
3. Never energize an oven when it is empty; **doing this can damage it.**
4. Do not energize the oven when metallic items, including aluminum foil, are inside.
5. Keep the oven door seal clean.
6. Inspect the oven door frequently (do not operate an oven with a damaged or loose door).
7. Don't lean against the oven when it is operating.
8. Keep children away from the oven.

If you are concerned about the leakage of microwave radiation from your oven and would like to have it checked, please contact [Rick Mannix](#) of EH&S at x4-6098.