



↵ UC IRVINE RADIATION SAFETY NEWSLETTER ↵

Volume V, #2 (Spring 2009)

Prepared and distributed by the staff of the Radiation Safety Division of EH&S

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep radioactive material users at UC Irvine informed regarding campus radiation safety policies and procedures including tips to improve safety. Visit the EH&S website (www.ehs.uci.edu) under "[Radiation & Laser Safety](#)" for previous issues of this newsletter and more information on radiation safety.

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TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER RESEARCH GROUP

When you completed the EH&S online *Radiation Safety Part I* course (www.ted.uci.edu) and filled out a *Statement of Training & Experience* form, you were automatically added to the authorized personnel list for the Radiation Use Authorization (RUA) of the PI whose name you inscribed on that form. **If you transfer to another lab (this is quite common with rotating graduate students), please notify EH&S and we will delete your name from the RUA of the PI whose lab you left. If you will be using radioisotopes in the new lab, we will add your name to the RUA of the PI of that lab.**

UC Irvine has received *Notices of Violation* from the Radiologic Health Branch of the State Department of Public Health several times in the recent past when radioisotope users have failed to notify us that they have changed labs. It is not uncommon for the State inspectors to evaluate personnel lists when they go to campus labs during their periodic visits to this campus. It is really the responsibility of the PIs involved to notify us when people transfer into or from their labs. Please try to remember to notify us yourself if you move to a new lab.



RECEIVING RADIOISOTOPE PACKAGES DIRECTLY AT YOUR LAB

All radioisotope packages for the UC Irvine main campus are required to be addressed to be delivered to EH&S:

UC Irvine
EH&S/Radiation Safety
Attention: *Name of PI*
4600 Health Sciences Road
Irvine, CA 92697-2725

Occasionally, due to improper addressing by the department administrator involved or through an error by the shipper (normally **FedEx**), radioisotope packages will be delivered directly to labs without first going through EH&S. If that happens in your lab, please notify EH&S immediately by telephone (949-824-6200) so that we can log the shipment into the campus' radioactive materials inventory records and check your package for removable contamination. Labs which fail to do this are risking dealing with a potentially-contaminated package and will be subject to an item of noncompliance from EH&S once the omission is detected.



CLEANING UP SMALL RADIOISOTOPE SPILLS

There are several cleaning products on the market specifically made for removing small radioisotope spills from lab surfaces and contaminated items. The two most popular of these cleaners are *Rad-Con™* and *Radiacwash™*. **While those are both useful products which capably do the job for which they were designed, in most cases far less expensive and much more readily available household cleaning products like *Formula 409™* and *Lysol Kitchen Cleaner™* will do just as good of a job with your spills.**

If you have a sizable radioisotope spill and do not feel comfortable in cleaning it up yourself, do not hesitate to call EH&S at 949-824-6200 for assistance. We are always happy to help you out in such cases.



MEMORABLE QUOTE

"There ain't no rules around here! We're trying to accomplish something!"

Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931) U. S. inventor




MIXED LIQUID WASTE

Please keep in mind that radioactive liquids disposed of through EH&S are typically aqueous waste (buffers, water washes, etc.). Mixed liquid waste containing a long-lived radioisotope (H-3, C-14, etc.) and a hazardous material (flammable, toxic, etc.) is very expensive to dispose of due to tight governmental regulations. If you believe that you will generate a mixed liquid waste, please consult EH&S in advance so that we can obtain a disposal cost estimate for you. If you can avoid generating a mixed liquid waste, it will save your lab from paying a high disposal fee.



UPCOMING REDUCTION IN CAMPUS RADIATION DOSIMETRY

Regrettably, because of a substantial reduction in the EH&S operating budget for the next fiscal year, we will be notifying some campus personnel who presently receive radiation dosimeter badges that we can no longer afford to pay for this service. **This will only include personnel who are not required to be badged based upon the quantities of radioisotopes which they use - and only then if their radiation dose histories indicate that they have been receiving very low or no measurable radiation doses in the recent past.** Affected persons will be provided with the opportunity to continue receiving dosimeters at their own expense. More information on this change will be forthcoming shortly.

 **If you have any questions about radiation safety, please contact EH&S at 949-824-6200. We will be happy to assist you with any radiation safety-related matter!**

