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↵ UC IRVINE RADIATION SAFETY NEWSLETTER ↵

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**Volume V, #3 (Summer 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](http://www.ehs.uci.edu)) under "[Radiation & Laser Safety](#)" for previous issues of this newsletter and more information on radiation safety.*

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# CiBR-Trac [si-ber-trak]

Chemical Inventory, Biological & Radio-isotope Tracking system

## RADIOISOTOPE INVENTORY UPDATE REMINDER

As a reminder, EH&S requires that your radioisotope inventory be updated at least every 6 months using the online CiBR-Trac system. We will send out an email reminder message in mid-July to all PIs with Radiation Use Authorizations (RUAs). The web address for the CiBR-Trac system is <http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp>. There is also a link to CiBR-Trac at the upper right corner on the main EH&S webpage, [www.ehs.uci.edu](http://www.ehs.uci.edu).

There is no need to correct the radioactivity in your individual vials for decay. This is performed automatically by the CiBR-Trac system when you save changes and print a copy of your updated inventory for your lab's radiation safety records notebook (*a hard copy is required*). **To print, use the blue link on the left side menu near the bottom left of the interface that says "Print" right below the RUA number.** A pop-up window will appear asking you to select which report to generate; select "Inventory Report". *Do not use the black print button in the upper right of the screen as that is just a print-screen button.*

If you get confused or have any problems with navigating the CiBR-Trac inventory system, please contact the EH&S Radiation Safety staff at 949-824-6200. We are more than happy to assist you!





## REUSING SCINTILLATION VIALS

These are tough economic times and EH&S recognizes that labs on campus are trying to reduce costs as much as possible. Reusing scintillation vials that were utilized in contamination monitoring yielding background counts is a simple cost-reduction method (contamination is normally not found in most areas checked). This method works best when cotton-tipped applicators are used to perform the swipes (see graphic, above right); it is less useful if filter paper is used in the monitoring or if a small amount of scintillation cocktail is used (< 5 ml). **If a vial is counted and a background reading is obtained, the vial and the scintillation cocktail can be used up to 2 more times just by placing new applicators into the same vial as shown and recounting them.** This can amount to a considerable savings in counting supply costs over time.

Do not continue to use vials more than 3 times because the applicators can start to interfere with counting. In addition, if the scintillation cocktail gets cloudy, cease using the vial for the same reason.

**Remember - scintillation vials need to be placed into plastic-lined 1-ft<sup>3</sup> boxes provided by EH&S.** Do not pour out scintillation vials into radioactive liquid waste containers! If you need a box for your vials, they are available free of charge from EH&S. Call 949-824-4862 to order these boxes or for more information on EH&S radioactive waste disposal policies.

The weblink for online radioactive waste pickups is: <http://www.ehs.uci.edu/apps/waste/radcollect.jsp>

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## MEMORABLE QUOTE

**“Scientific method is very important to me. I think anything that contradicts it is probably not true”.**

**John Astin (1930 - ), American Actor**



## **LABCOATS - REQUIRED!**

**Please keep in mind that a labcoat needs to be worn whenever radioactive material is handled.** This includes during the summer when it is hot. It is not uncommon for EH&S staff to observe lab personnel wearing disposable gloves but not labcoats when we visit research labs on campus. EH&S will cite labs with an item of noncompliance if radioisotopes are handled by persons not wearing labcoats.

Also, be sure to wear a labcoat whenever chemicals and/or biological agents are used. Labcoats protect your clothing from all forms of contamination and avoids transferring contaminants to your car, home, and family since you leave the labcoat behind in the lab when you depart for the day.

There was a recent accident at UCLA in which a fatality resulted. The woman was not wearing a labcoat and a flash-fire ensued (produced by a pyrophoric chemical) causing her flammable polyester sweater to catch fire. The accident likely would have been much less severe had she been wearing a relatively non-flammable cotton labcoat.

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## **RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SPILLS**

**Below are some issues to keep in mind regarding radioactive material spills:**

- ❖ If the spill is small and easy to clean up, you may do that yourself without EH&S assistance. Always confirm that the contamination is properly cleaned up by performing monitoring (a Geiger counter survey -- except for  $^3\text{H}$  -- and a wipe test) after the cleanup process is completed. Repeat the process if significant contamination remains.
- ❖ Inexpensive cleaners like *Formula 409* and *Lysol Kitchen Cleaner* work well in cleaning up small radioactive spills. The commercial decontaminants like *Radiacwash* and *Rad-Con* also work well.
- ❖ Always isolate a spill and label the area prominently so that other lab personnel, visitors, and janitors will not encounter the spilled material and spread contamination to themselves or to other areas.
- ❖ If a spill is large, contact EH&S at 949-824-6200 and we will respond as soon as possible.
- ❖ Do not track contamination on the floor to other lab areas or hallways. Take off your shoes near the spill if they are likely contaminated.
- ❖ If your body becomes contaminated, immediately wash off the contamination in a sink, emergency shower, etc. *Do not worry about contaminating them!* Contact EH&S as soon as possible.
- ❖ If your clothing becomes contaminated, remove contaminated clothing items and leave them in the vicinity of the spill. If pants are involved, remove them and wear a clean labcoat. If it is determined that contamination leaked through to your skin, wash the affected skin and contact EH&S.
- ❖ EH&S needs to be contacted any time a person becomes contaminated!



## **RADIATION SAFETY TRAINING FORMS**

In order to complete the online **Radiation Safety Part I** course and for authorization to sign up for **Radiation Safety Part II**, make sure that you complete and return the required forms. They are referred to in the Radiation Safety Part I course and are downloadable as attachments to the course. EH&S requires that the forms be completed and returned to us in a timely manner. These are the required training forms and the weblinks to access them:

<http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/radiation/forms/trainexp0405.pdf> (Statement of Training & Experience – all persons taking Radiation Safety Part I need to complete and return this to EH&S)

<http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/radiation/Prenatal%20Policy%2003051.pdf> (Prenatal Policy - only for women, *this is to read, not to return*)

<http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/radiation/Prenatal1.pdf> (Prenatal Form- only women need to complete this form and return it to EH&S)

Please send all completed training forms to:

**Radiation Safety  
EH&S  
ZOT 2725**

*Or you can fax them to Radiation Safety at 949-824-8539.*

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**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!**

