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.

RADIATION-PRODUCING MACHINE SAFETY COURSE IS NOW ONLINE!

The ionizing radiation-producing machine safety course is now online! The Radiation-producing Machine eCourse can be accessed at the UC Learning Center website (www.uclc.uci.edu). This course is intended for staff and students who will be using x-ray machines or accelerators on the UC Irvine campus. It is not intended for people who will be using Cs-137 irradiators, neutron hydroprobes, the nuclear reactor, or lasers (or other non-ionizing radiation-producing machines such as ultraviolet lamps). Contact EH&S Radiation Safety at 949-824-6200 if necessary for information regarding the proper safety course/s to take for use of those devices.

To take the Radiation-producing Machine eCourse be sure to select the online/e-course at the UC Learning Center website. The instructor-led training (ILT) course (Radiation-producing Machine Safety Orientation), which is a classroom-type course, is still listed at the website, but classroom courses are only offered under special circumstances (very large groups, off-campus groups without UCI Net IDs, etc.).

If you have a valid UCI Net ID but are not a current UCI employee (e.g., an unpaid student, a volunteer, etc.), go to the link at the bottom left of the UC Learning Center main page and complete a Student & Affiliate Access Request Form. If after doing that you still have problems accessing the course, please contact the Radiation Safety staff at 949-824-6200.
REMEMBERING ROUTINE RADIATION SAFETY TASKS

It is very easy to forget to perform routine radiation safety tasks unless there is a mechanism in place to remind you to perform them when they are due. Entries in either a lab calendar or a personal calendar are good choices for this purpose.

The most commonly forgotten tasks, and their required frequencies, are below:

CONTAMINATION MONITORING

- During periods in which radioisotopes are used, contamination monitoring is required every 30 days.

- If 30 days have passed since your previous contamination monitoring and radioisotopes have not been used during that 30 day period, you may inscribe a no-use statement into your contamination monitoring records and there is no need to perform contamination monitoring for that period. A no-use statement needs to include the date and an indication that no radioisotopes were used during the previous 30 days. An example of a no-use statement is below:
  *June, 1, 2012  No radioisotopes used during May.*

- During extended periods of no-use when radioisotopes remain in the lab, contamination monitoring of the radioisotope storage areas, including freezers, refrigerators, radioactive waste areas, etc., must be monitored for contamination every 3 months.

RADIOISOTOPE INVENTORY UPDATES IN THE CIBR-TRAC SYSTEM

- As long as radioisotopes are present in your lab in vials or other non-radioactive waste containers (e.g., test tubes, petri dishes, etc.), the lab’s radioisotope inventory in the online CiBR-Trac system ([http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp](http://ucirvine.ecompliance.net/index.jsp)) needs to be updated at least every 6 months. EH&S sends out email reminders regarding this to Principal Investigators with Radiation Use Authorizations every January and July, so it is best to be on that schedule.

- If all of the radioisotopes have decayed to background, or if only radioactive waste remains in your lab, then no CiBR-Trac inventory update is required.

CiBR-Trac

*Chemical Inventory, Biological & Radio-isotope Tracking system*
CLUTTER IN RADIOISOTOPE LABS

A good way to avoid safety problems of all types in labs, including spills of radioactivity, is to establish good “housekeeping” practices in your laboratory. Cluttered laboratories can present a variety of problems including cramped workspaces, the need to place open containers of radioisotopes near the edge of the work bench, bottles of radioactive waste on the floor where they can be kicked over, contamination of lab staff, etc.

Keep in mind that poor housekeeping:

❖ Causes accidents such as spills and personnel contamination.

❖ Can cost your lab money if EH&S is needed to assist with cleanups and to replace spilled chemicals, radioisotopes, and contaminated materials.

❖ Can establish bad habits for students who could propagate those messy habits to future generations of students in the lab and when they leave UC Irvine.

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MEMORABLE QUOTE

“A great frustration in life is discovering that sometimes those who say something can’t be done turn out to be right.”

Donald Simanek (1936- ), American Physics Professor

⚠️ 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!