



Logan Location Safety Notes



November 1997

Annual facility inspections of all research units at Logan were completed in August. Marked improvement was seen in many areas. The location deserves a hearty pat on the back; an effective safety program depends on everyone working together. Most of the problems seen were classified as low or very low risk to the health of the employee or the environment.

By far the most commonly cited violation was improper storage of personal protective equipment such as safety goggles, face shields, and respirators. Please take the time to put them in a plastic bag or a drawer when you take them off at the end of your work. When you leave them lying on the bench top in the lab, they are exposed to any hazards that may be floating around the lab: dusts, mists, vapors, etc. Plus there's always the risk that a chemical will be spilled or splashed on them. The next time you put them on you could be unpleasantly surprised by a rash or chemical burn or worse!

It's even more important to store respirators in such a way that the cartridges are not exposed to the environment. Even when you're not wearing the respirator for protection, the cartridges will still be absorbing any fumes or vapors in the air. They may provide inadequate or no protection the next time you wear the respirator. The cartridges don't conveniently change color or offer other warnings that they are no longer effective in

protecting you from the hazardous environment.

The disposable dust masks are to be used **only** in non-hazardous environments. They do not provide protection against many of the chemicals used in basic research nor do they protect against biohazards such as hantavirus. Also, "disposable" is a key word here. Throw them out when you're done!

"There has been an alarming increase in the number of things I know nothing about."

Ashleigh Brilliant

If the above quote applies to you when it comes to safety matters, you're not alone. There has been a tremendous increase over the last 20 years in the regulations and directives (from OSHA, EPA, NIOSH, CDC, ARS, USDA, ANSI, and all the other 'alphabets' out there) we are required to follow. Ignorance of a specific regulation is not considered an adequate response when you are cited by an inspector.

Where do you go when you have a question on safety matters?

The first source should be your supervisor; she/he should have performed a hazard analysis/risk assessment on all procedures being used in the lab (i.e., large extractions of plant, pesticide application, grinding plant samples).

Your next source of information is the safety team or committee member from your

research unit. PPRL has a safety team of 4 members from the areas of animal care, chemistry, range science, and reproductive physiology. At FRRL, Carolyn Jaussi and Doug Johnson are members of the location safety committee; Glen Trostle serves as the representative from the Bee Lab; Terrie Wierenga (from PPRL) is the chairwoman of the committee. These people have received additional training in a number of areas and can either answer your questions or direct you to people who can. **Use these resources.** It can save you time and (in some cases) prevent you from getting in trouble down the road.

We also have area safety personnel who are trained in specific areas. Terry Moore is the area safety and health specialist; Bonnie King is the area environmental specialist. Other locations in the Northern Plains Area have full-time safety specialists that can also help answer questions or offer recommendations.

The safety committee and other safety personnel are here to **assist** you, not to actively try to make your research life miserable (as some have accused over the years!).



Questions? Comments? Contact Terrie Wierenga: phone is 752-2941; e-mail terrie@cc.usu.edu

SAFETY WORD PUZZLE

A L S H G Q W N E G A T U M T Y
 R E D E C A R C I N O G E N U I
 O S H A O P T A S D F G H J D K
 T E L Z C V L B N M Q W E R O T
 Y N O G L O V E S D S M U I O P
 D S A D F G H J P K R L Z C H X
 N I U T C V B N M O Q W E A R T
 E T Y U I O P A T S D F Z U F G
 G I H J K R L A A Z X A C S V B
 O Z H N M Q R W O E R T Y T U S
 T E T I A I O I C D P A S I D E
 A R L F P G H J B K L Z X C V L
 R X A S E M Q W A E R T Y U I G
 E H E J K L Z X L A B E L C V G
 T R H B N M Q W E R T Y U I O O
 P S Y D C O R R O S I V E F D G

carcinogen
 caustic
 corrosive
 EPA
 gloves
 goggles
 hazard
 health
 hood
 irritant

labcoat
 label
 MSDS
 mutagen
 OSHA
 PEL
 respirator
 sensitizer
 teratogen
 TLV

