"Safety Comes First"

Case Western Reserve University

Environmental Health and Safety

In this issue:

The holidays have come and gone for another year and spring is coming fast. A traditional part of northern living is spring cleaning and this applies to laboratories as well. As this spring approaches it may also be time to update your safety plans and trainings to reflect the work you are doing and the work you plan to do in the coming year. This is especially appropriate for the corner stones of laboratory safety: the Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) and the Exposure Control Plan (ECP).

Both the CHP and ECP describe the safety elements required to run a research laboratory in a safe and regulatory compliant manner. These plans at their core define what is required of the individual, the laboratory and the institution. However there a fundamental part of this that is sometimes overlooked. The plans must have a section that doesn't just parrot back what the EHS department trainings and manuals require, but must include **LABORATORY SPECIFIC TRAINING AND PROCEEDURES**. I highlight this text so as to draw your attention to the vital importance of this section of the plans.

Laboratory specific training and procedures should keep you safe. In addition

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OSHA's Most Cited Standards

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Fall protection, under construction tops the list in both "most cited" and "highest penalties"

Properly Identifying Chemical Bottles

"The user may know what is in the bottle, but others may NOT know."

One of the most commonly cited safety violations in a laboratory is failure to properly identify chemical bottles. The reason is simple. The user may know what is in the bottle, but others may NOT know. This is the purpose of the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS): to communicate to others in the area that a hazard, in this case a chemical is present.

Label a container as soon as a chemical is transferred into it. If the container's content is different from the previous chemical contained within it, remove or deface the old label and properly relabel it with the new information. Labels need to be clear and in English and contain the proper chemical name. Do not use abbreviefBT/ shorthazd cr wh