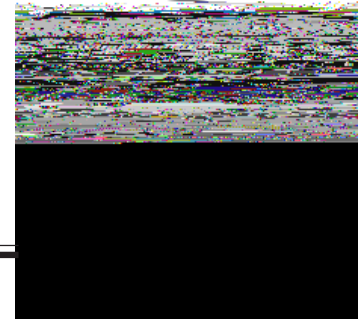


CWRU DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY NEWSLETTER



March/April 2004

"Safety Comes First"

SPECIAL ISSUE: USING THE D. O. E. S. WEBSITE

Service Building, 1st Floor (216)368-2906/2907 FAX:(216)368-2236 <http://does.cwru.edu>

IN THIS ISSUE:



**Safety Questions?
Login to:
does.cwru.edu**

The CDC defines the term "Select Agent" as a biological agent or toxin deemed to threaten public, animal or plant health, or animal or plant products. As of February 7, new regulations to implement the *Public Health and Security Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002*, regarding the possession of, access to, and use of select agents became effective. Amongst these new regulations is a revised list of nationally recognized select agents. Furthermore, these regulations require that in order to possess select agents, laboratories must register with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and submit to the Department of Justice the names of individuals with access to select agents for background checks. Additionally, those who want

(Continued on page 2)

Select Agent Regulations

(Continued from page 1)

to use Select Agents for research must develop biosecurity and biosafety plans, as well as develop a system for taking inventory of the select agents being used. In order to use select agents for research, laboratories must be vigilant about recording the names of students, employees, faculty, staff and volunteers who either use or have access to biological agents which pose a potential threat to human health and safety, and must require training in the use of such agents.

If your lab uses a select agent, you must complete a "Select Agent Registration Form" and file it with D.O.E.S. immediately. The purpose of this new policy is to ensure that all federally regulated Select Agents on Case Western Reserve University's campus are handled safely, secured properly, and registered accurately with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Justice. In the event that your lab plans to use a select agent, you **must** seek approval from D.O.E.S. **There are significant criminal penalties that apply to individuals who attempt to circumvent the legislation and for failure to comply.**

The authorities are serious about these new policies sfw(Selielect)ge 1)

Radiation (x2906)

- New Training: (check website)
- X-ray Training: (call for times)

Chemical and Biological Safety (x2907)

- OSHA Lab Standard and Regulated Chemicals: Mondays 1-3:00
- Bloodborne Pathogens: Mondays 3-5:00

Please Note: Seats are limited in new training sessions, so be sure to call ahead of time to check on the availability of a training session.

- All online training is available at <http://does.cwru.edu> and **ALL** training (ex-

Login to does.cwru.edu

(Continued from page 1)

thing from basic safety instructions to the most up to date safety information at your fingertips.

For example, the D.O.E.S. website presents Material Safety Data Sheets on current construction projects as well as announcements about new Emergency Evacuation Plans and opportunities for retraining online. Did you know, for instance, that if you have questions about biohood testing, service, or need to send results, you should call D.O.E.S. or email us at does@po.cwru.edu?

Additionally, the D.O.E.S. website is a convenient location for accessing safety manuals, including Biological Safety, Chemical Safety, Radiation Safety, and Physical Safety manuals. You can also access order forms and inventory forms from our website. You can even complete most of your required retraining online at the D.O.E.S. website. Login and explore the possibilities.

Manuals and Forms Online

(Continued from page 3)

laboratory use. This plan (the HazComm Plan) also applies to non-laboratory employees who may be exposed to hazardous chemicals in the course of their work, both in normal conditions and emergencies, as well as to consumer products when not used in the same frequency and volume as the consumer.

Other important documents available online include the following manuals: Radiation Safety, Radiation Safety Training, Laboratory Safety, and Physical Safety. Among a myriad of other important documents provided via this link on the D.O.E.S. website, you will also find the following forms: Caution Sign and Label Order Form, Select Agents Registration Form, Select Agents Background Check Form, Destruction of Select Agents Form, Environmental Release Form, and the Lost Dosimetry (Ring or Badge) Form.

Radiation News: Half-Life Calculation

Have you taken the radioactive decay of the isotopes in your lab into consideration? If not, you might find that the activity of the waste in your lab is higher than what you have in your inventory. To correct this problem, be sure to calculate the activity of the isotope based on the half-life and the length of time that the isotope has been in the laboratory.

The half-life of an isotope is the amount of time it takes the activity to decrease by a factor of two. So, keep this calculation in mind:

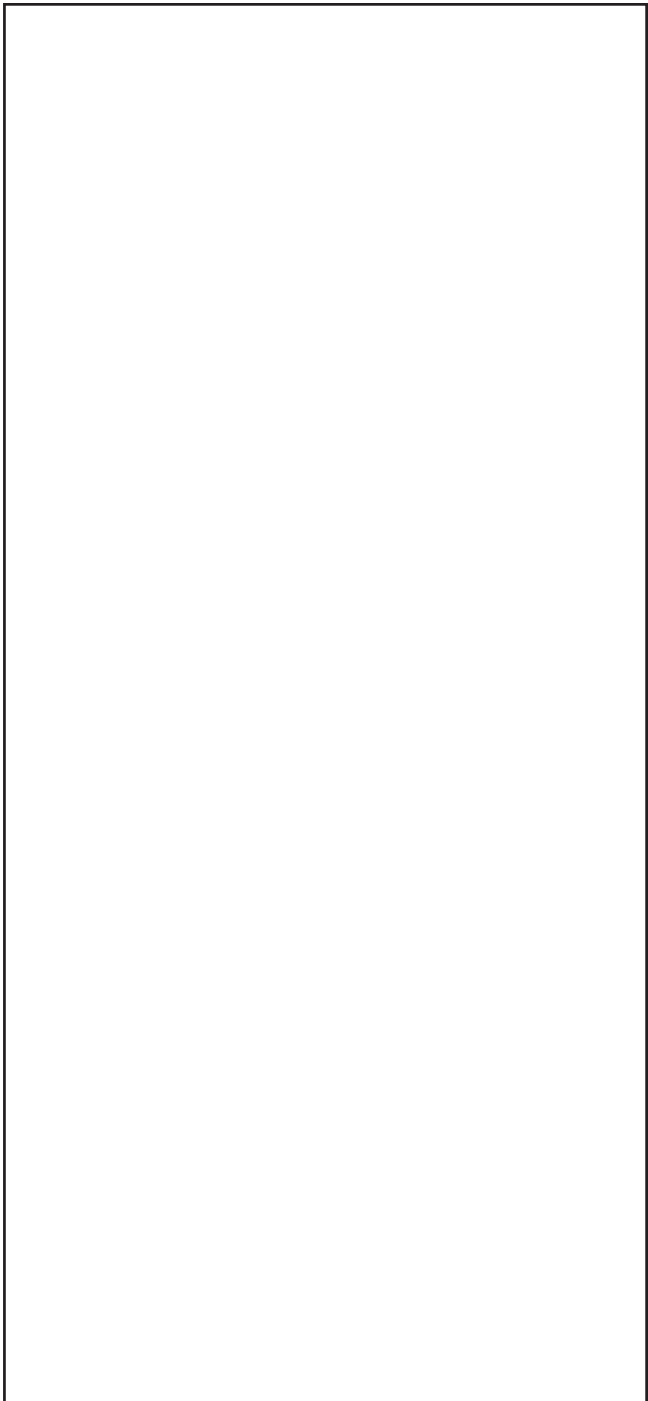
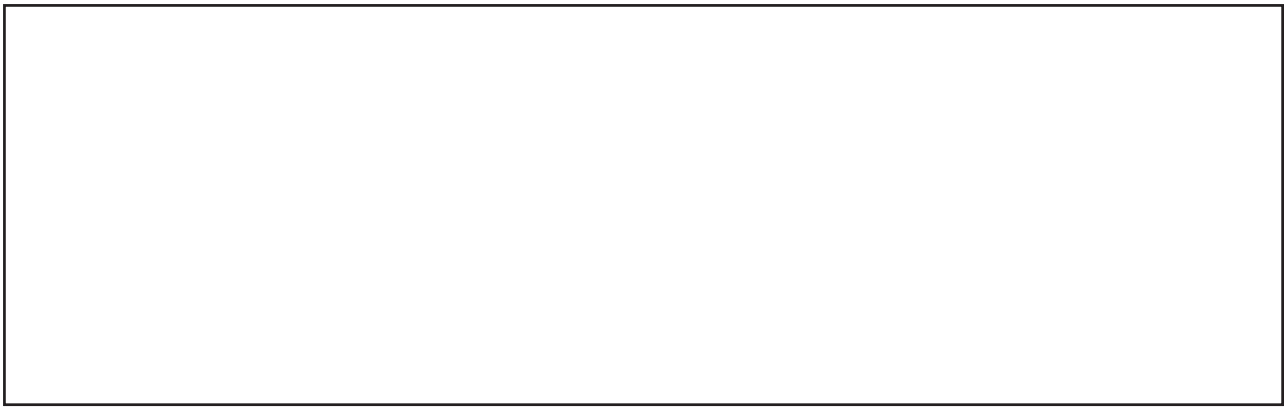
N = number of half-lives

If $N = 1$, then the calculation is $(1/2)$

If $N = 2$, then the calculation is $(1/2)(1/2)$ or $1/4$

If $N = 3$, then the calculation is $(1/2)(1/2)(1/2)$ or $1/8$

(Continued on page 5)



**Ask
Dr. Goggles**

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