[illegible]

The tragedy last spring at the Peter B. Lewis Building illustrates the importance of workplace safety issues in a university enviroment. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, over two million physical assaults and 7,000 homicides occur in the workplace each year. Homicide is now the leading cause of death for women in the workplace and the second-leading for men.

Here are some of the early warning signs for workplace violence:

- Direct or veiled verbal threats of harm or intimidation.
- Hypersensitivity or extreme suspiciousness.
- Extreme moral righteousness ("I know I am right").
- Unable to take criticism of job performance.
- Person holds a grudge, especially against a supervisor.
- Expression of extreme desperation over recent problems.
- History of violent behavior.

No one signal alone should cause concern but a combination of these items should be a cause for action. The University's policy states that "Employees who either experience, observe, or become aware of acts of violence must report such conduct to either the Department of Protective Services (368-4630; x3333 for emergencies) or the Department of Human Resources (368-4500). Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent that circumstances permit."

Other suggested behavioral guidelines are:

- To project calmness: move and speak slowly, quietly and confidently.
- Focus your attention on the other person to let them know you are interested in what they have to say.
- Maintain a relaxed yet attentive posture and position yourself at a right angle rather than directly in front of the other person.
- Accept criticism in a positive way. When a complaint might be true, use statements like "You are probably right" or "It was my fault."If the criticism seems unwarranted, ask clarifying questions.
- Acknowledge the feelings of the other person. Indicate that you can see he or she is upset.
- DO NOT use styles of communication which generate hostility such as apathy, brush off, coldness, going strictly by the rules or giving the run-around.
- DO NOT challenge, threaten, or dare the person. Never belittle the person or make him or her feel foolish.
- DO NOT try to make the situation seem less serious than it is.

Women especially have to deal with several types of workplace violence. According to a study by the Center for Women in Government, workplace violence - including physical assaults, threats, rape, rob-

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

[illegible]

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

[illegible]

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

- All online training is available at *ttp:// d e .cw .ed*

[illegible] training (except X-ray) is [illegible] and all retraining (except regulated chemicals) is available online. Please continue to check our website for updates. We hope to make retraining for Regulated Chemicals available online soon.

[illegible]

Like any other part of the University infrastructure, electrical power to the campus can fail, either as an isolated incident (a blown fuse or a tripped circuit breaker) or as part of a larger event (regional power outages due to spring storms or other natural or man-made disasters). Should the campus experience a wide-area electrical outage, secondary emergency generators will work in some buildings, but be prepared in case they do not. There are several things you can know beforehand that will help in the event of this sort of emergency.

[illegible]

Emergency lighting provides enough light for a safe, quick exit. Batteries in these lights should last a couple of hours, but may fail sooner. It is important that lighting in hallways and stairwells is monitored during a power outage to ensure occupants can exit safely. If natural or emergency lighting in hallways and stairwells begins to diminish to one foot candle (about the light provided by a full moon), building occupants should evacuate the building. Outlet-mounted and handheld emergency flashlights are useful in rooms without windows or areas where work is conducted at night.

[illegible]

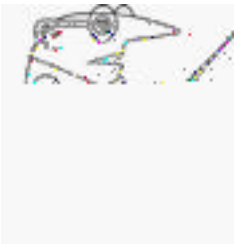
For outages of up to several hours, freezers will hold their temperature and should not be opened. In general, chest freezers will hold temperature longer than upright freezers. Incubators are more of a problem and may lose the CO_2 balance necessary to maintain pH. If power outages are anticipated to last for longer than a few hours, dry ice and wet ice chests may be used to maintain cold temperature.

[illegible]

Identify hazardous equipment that should be turned off after power fails because it might cause injury when restarted after power returns. Unless there has been an order to evacuate the building, assign an employee to shut off the power to all hazardous equipment in the work area after a power failure. To facilitate this, make a list of equipment that must be reset or restarted once power returns. Keep instructions for doing so in a nearby place. Equipment that operates unattended should be programmed to shut down safely during a power failure and not restart automatically when power returns. Make sure that all fume hoods have a physical, non-electrical indicator to show if they are running. This could be as simple as a strip of hanging tissue paper that will flutter when the fume hood is running.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. residents should assemble a disaster supplies kit in case of emergency. The contents of this kit however have been a topic of debate. The DHS recommends using an easy-to-carry container such as a duffel bag or small plastic trash can. Include "special needs" items for any member of your household (infant formula, insulin, etc.), first aid supplies (including prescription medications), a change

Ask Dr. Goggles



Dear Doctor Goggles:

When I first came here to CWRU, I went through the required Radiation Safety training. I was never active as a RAD worker, but now (3 years later) I am in a lab that uses radioactivity. Can I do my re-training online?

Yours,
The Irradiator

Dear Inquisitive Irradiator:

No. Since it's been over 2 years, you must sign up for which must be done . Please visit the DOES Safety website (regularly updated) at for dates and times.

Dear Doc Goggles:

I know that all sharps cannot be reused but what about blood tube holders? Can I remove a needle to re-use a blood tube holder? Must each blood tube collection device be disposed of with the needle attached each time they are used?

-Thrifty Pete

Dear Thrifty Pete:

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29

Tales from the LAB . . .