



Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety NEWSLETTER

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CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

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Y2K: Are You Ready?



We all know the threat: that on January 1, 2000, some computer chips may mistakenly read the binary year 00 as 1900 — and electronic havoc may ensue. But whether overblown hype or apocalyptic prophecies want . . . m 244 TD (I)TjET0.5 w 441.125 20d the bina m qTf-62.5 -34.75 TDfs want . . . m 24y.026 T

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Moving Violations

If you are a) moving your lab or b) leaving your lab, remember that you **must** notify DOES.

• If the move is **internal** (within the same building), notify us two weeks in advance.

• If the move is **external** (across the street or across the world), you must let us know at least **3 weeks** in advance.

Once you call, we will inform your PI of the next steps and will furnish him or her with the necessary forms. Remember that violations, even if only across the street, are subject to **massive** DOT fines. Be smart, safe, and courteous -- please keep us apprised.

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What a WASTE!

ATTENTION: New Changes in Lead Packaging for Phosphorous-32

New DOT standards aimed at reducing unnecessary (and expensive) lead packaging have resulted in a new, less-hazardous means of transporting shipments of Phosphorous-32 of under 1mCi in volume. NEN is now offering a new system called NENSure which uses no lead but still meets all DOT and NRC standards for safe transport. To choose the OT and NRC standard now offered when

Upcoming Training Sessions

Radiation (x2906)

- New Training:** Oct.22(1-4),Nov, 15(2-3),30(10-11)
- Retraining:** Oct.19(2-3),28(10-11)
- X-ray Training:** call office to set up training session

Chemical (x2907)

- OSHA Lab Standard:** Mondays 1-3 (Service Building Conference Room)

Bloodborne Pathogen (x2907)

- New Training:** Mondays 3-4 (Service Building Conference Room) Nov,10(10-11)
- Retraining:** (Service Building Conference Room) Nov.23(2-3)

Don't forget: rad re-training is now also ONLINE at our website: www.does.cwru.edu.

As always, call us for upcoming dates and times.



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Once this equipment has been located, you should:

- check every system for time-sensitive logic controls
- evaluate to determine whether the chips can handle the change



A Halloween Horror Story



The story goes like this: a somewhat-lazy researcher neglected to lock a storage refrigerator he was using. One dark and stormy night, he opened it up and searched through the chemicals. Suddenly, an ampoule stored within the refrigerator door exploded, spraying its unknown contents in all directions. Can you guess what happened? Can you identify the culprit? Since the refrigerator **was not locked**, the researcher had left it slightly open — just the tiniest crack — the last time he used it. Having been initially sealed at a relatively low temperature, the ampoule warmed up in the open door, causing pressure to build up inside it — until it violently exploded. People never saw the researcher again, but they say he haunts the halls of negligent labs who don't conform to regulatory standards and lock their refrigerators. Could he be haunting you?

Halloween Safety Reminder

Remember that there is no food or drink allowed in the laboratory -- this goes for Halloween candy, too! Costumes can also be an enormous hazard -- do you really want to be wearing a full-size gorilla costume when it catches fire? So remind your co-workers, students, and visitors and keep this otherwise scary holiday a safe one.



SAFETY QUIZ ANSWERS:

ANSWERS: D, B, C, A, B.

KEY: 5/5 Ruling Champion of All Things Safe
 4/5 Still Reaching for the Stars
 3/5 Safe Lite
 2/5 English Major
 1/5 Mildly Burned and Scarred
 0/5 Um...better read your safety manual.

Remember -- this is only a test, but your results should be an indication of how confident you feel when it comes to matters of safety. If you scored any less than a perfect 5, consult your DOES Safety Manual.

Links to Safety



The amount of Y2K information available on the Web can be quite overwhelming, but here are a few sites worthy of your attention:

www.cwru.edu/president/audit/y2k/y2k.htm: CWRU has comprehensive archives and links to other Y2K-related information on the Web — a little daunting, but this should be your first stop.

www.osha.gov/year2k/: OSHA's Y2K mini-site delineates guidelines for different environments.

www.nrc.gov: Official site contains articles and FAQs related to rad waste compliancy issues.

www.chemsafety.gov/y2k: The CSB's coverage of Y2K includes updated scenarios and a handbook for chemical workers.

www.y2k.gov: The U.S. Government's official clearinghouse for all Y2K information. All of the information here may also be accessed through a voice menu at 1-888-USA-4-Y2K.

www.bugnetwork.com: An interactive conference site dedicated to the Y2K bug.

www.everything2000.com: If you're just plain interested in the whole 2000 phenomenon.

www.does.cwru.edu: Last (but not least)! No Y2K info, but remember that we have online manuals, past newsletters, and up-to-date info all for your perusal.

So check these sites out for pertinent information which might specifically affect you. And if the person looking over your shoulder accuses you of using valuable work time to surf the Internet, just turn and say: "Better safe than sorry!"

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and Environmental Safety
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Safety News For the Campus Community