



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY Environmental Health and Safety GUARDIAN

Volume 8 Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2002

Also in this issue...

Training Corner	2
Pests on Campus	3
Drivers' License Checks	4
LATCH	4

GUARDIAN, is published quarterly by The Florida State University- Department of Environmental Health and Safety, 1012 Parking Garage Tallahassee, FL 32306-4109 (850) 644-6895 Fax (850) 644-8842

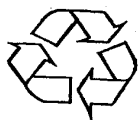
Director
Fran Harley
fharley@admin.fsu.edu

Editor
David Plichta
dplichta@admin.fsu.edu

Contributors:
Linda Davis
Mark Klawinski
Richard Le
Lloyd Willingham

GUARDIAN is available in alternative format upon request and on the web at www.safety.fsu.edu/guardian.html

GUARDIAN is printed on recycled paper. Please recycle this newsletter when finished.



Eating and Drinking in Laboratories

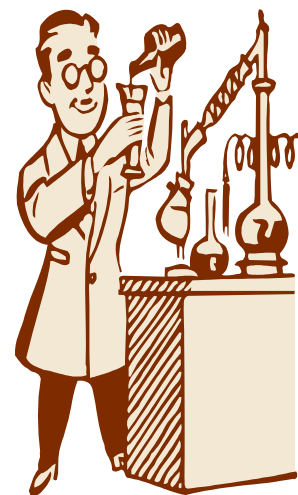
Eating and drinking are not permitted in areas where laboratory research is conducted. This policy is clearly stated in the FSU Chemical Hygiene Plan, the FSU Radiation Safety Manual, and Dr. Abele's memo on **Eating and Drinking in non-designated Areas** dated December 19, 2001 (www.safety.fsu.edu/abelememo.pdf).

It is sometimes the case, however, that in some research laboratories, isolated areas such as break areas, conference areas, personal offices and desk spaces are located within the laboratory space in an area where no research is being conducted. In such instances, eating and drinking may be permitted if an area is physically separated by either distance or partition and that area is clearly labeled allowing those activities.

Recent inspections conducted by Environmental Health & Safety have indicated that such isolated areas are not always clearly marked or posted. Principal investigators and laboratory staff should reevaluate such areas and clearly post and mark them to identify where eating and drinking is permissible.

In reviewing and identifying the areas, be sure to take into consideration the distance between food areas and the nearest research areas and associated laboratory equipment.

If the laboratory needs assistance in identifying the isolated areas or in posting, please contact EH&S for assistance to ensure that the posting and marking are executed properly. Also, if you have questions or would like clarification on this policy, please contact EH&S at 644-6895.



Asbestos on Campus

Asbestos is a term referring to a group of fibrous, naturally occurring silicate minerals. Asbestos exhibits properties that make it useful in commerce. During the past century, asbestos has been mined, processed and used in thousands of products. Because of the exceptionally effective insulating, fire-resistant and reinforcing properties of asbestos containing material (ACM) they have been utilized widely as surface-applied finishes (for acoustical, decorative, and fire-retardant purposes), and as thermal insulation in construction of buildings, as well as in equipment used in buildings. Under certain conditions, ACM can release asbestos fibers into the air of buildings, which can be inhaled by occupants possibly resulting in fibrosis or cancer in the lungs.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ACM within buildings in good condition is unlikely to expose office workers and other general building occupants to airborne concentrations above the levels found in air outside such buildings. Although there are many variables and uncertainties, the added lifetime risk of cancer for this class of occupants in well-maintained buildings is estimated to be relatively low compared, for example, to the risks from other indoor air pollutants, such as environmental tobacco smoke.

Janitorial, custodial, maintenance, renovation, and telephone workers may experience exposure episodes because of disturbance or damage to ACM, which may release relatively high concentrations of fibers. This group of workers' added lifetime risk of cancer might be appreciably higher than the risk to general building occupants. Untrained or unprotected individuals may cause disturbances to ACM. FSU maintains a group of trained employees from various trades to deal with ACM encountered in the course of routine maintenance. Proper controls, including appropriate work practice and respiratory protective equipment, is used to minimize exposure to such workers.



When large amounts of ACM are disturbed due to renovations or maintenance, specialized contractors and consultants are hired to perform the work. The potential for asbestos exposure in a given building is primarily determined by surveying the accessibility, quantity, conditions and type of each ACM. Most large buildings on campus have been surveyed for asbestos while efforts are underway to survey the remaining ones.

In an effort to catalog all the known locations of potential exposure to ACM, EH&S has compiled a report of restricted access areas due to the presence of damaged asbestos materials. You can view that report on our web site at: www.safety.fsu.edu/asbestos_areas.pdf. This is a list of areas with damaged ACM and does not include undamaged ACM in FSU buildings. ACM in good condition is maintained in place in campus buildings. Public concern over asbestos in buildings has focused primarily on potential risks to general building occupants. According to the EPA, there does not appear to be sufficient justification on grounds of risk to health of general occupants for arbitrarily removing intact ACM from well-maintained buildings.

For more information on asbestos, please visit EPA's web site at: www.epa.gov/asbestos/.

EHS Training Corner

Defensive Driving

In a partnership with the North Florida Safety Council, EH&S has begun offering after-hours Defensive Driving classes. For those of you who have a heavy foot, you probably already know of this course. The course is offered once a month from 6-10 p.m. in the EH&S training room in Parking Garage #1.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Anyone who may have an occupational exposure to human blood, body fluid, tissues or human cell lines must receive this training, as required by the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard.

Topics covered include:

- Epidemiology, symptoms and the modes of transmission of bloodborne pathogens
- FSU's exposure control plan
- Hepatitis B vaccine, its efficacy, safety and method of administration
- Methods to prevent or minimize occupational exposure
- Post-exposure procedures and medical evaluations

For more information on these classes or on other classes EH&S offers, feel free to visit our web site at www.safety.fsu.edu/training.html.



Amosite, 40x magnification

Pests on Campus



A message from Linda C. Davis, Facilities Operations & Maintenance

If you live in Florida, you live with pests.

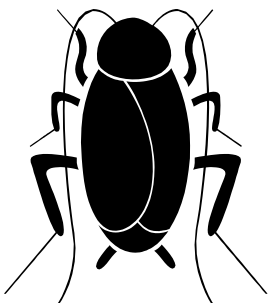
Pests need to live outside, not in offices, break rooms, kitchens, or on playgrounds!

Last year there were 276 work requests called in to the maintenance service center for ant and roach problems at a cost of \$11,422.50. From July 1st through September 6th of this year there were 97 work requests generated at a cost of \$4,145.00.

The majority of calls were for break rooms and kitchens where unsealed containers of food had been put into drawers and cabinets. Packets of ketchup and mayonnaise, open containers of sugar and cream by the coffee pots, dirty microwaves, toasters and toaster ovens with bread crumbs and food in and by them are all favorite hang outs for pests. Roaches and ants, as well as rodents, come inside looking for food and moisture, especially in dry weather, and they have been found on all floors of every building, old and new.

How can you help to reduce the pest population on campus?

- Encourage your staff to practice good housekeeping. Clean up areas where they prepare and/or eat food.
- Reduce the amount of food products stored in the work place.
- Try not to dispose of food in trash containers on Fridays. In some areas, Building Services personnel are off from Friday morning until Sunday evening, so what goes in Friday stays there until Sunday.
- Remove, dry, or empty containers that could hold water.
- Use tight metal or glass food storage containers, as rodents will chew through hard plastic.
- If possible, use only garbage cans with tight fitting lids.
- Gnats generally come from overripe fruit or vegetables. A banana peel that falls behind a trashcan will attract many annoying gnats in a matter of days.
- If black flies in restrooms are coming from a floor drain, call in a request for building services to take care of the problem.
- Remove clutter that can harbor roaches and rodents.
- Before bringing plants into your office, isolate any new plants for a month or so and check them frequently for signs of insects. This also applies to any of your plants that may have been outside for the summer.
- Ants like to live in moist plant soil. Occasionally let your plants dry out before watering them.



Your help in controlling the pest populations and reducing the cost for pest control services is greatly appreciated.

Please remember, before calling the service center for pest control service, please check with co-workers to ensure that there is no one that may have a reaction to the products used to help control the pests.

Driver's License Check

For those departments utilizing vehicles on campus, you now have a way to check the status of your employees' drivers' licenses. Point your favorite internet browser to the following web site <https://www2.hsmv.state.fl.us/dlstatus.html> and type in the driver's license number of your employee. The page can tell you whether or not the license is valid and when the license expires.

Seatbelt Use Rises

A survey conducted in June concluded that seat belt use in America is at an all time high of 75%. Those states with primary seatbelt laws (laws allowing officers to pull over a vehicle for no other reason than seat belt violations) showed seatbelt usage as high as 80%.

LATCH

Lower Anchors and Tethers for CHildren is an improvement in securing child safety seats. Bottom anchor points are being included in new vehicles. Rather than just securing car seats into the car with a safety belt, car seats used in LATCH equipped vehicles will have additional anchors at the bottom to hold them more securely to the car.

Nearly all 2003 model cars will have LATCH, while many 2002 and 2001 vehicles already have it installed. If you have an older car seat, that still meets National Highway Traffic Safety Administration requirements, you may be able to get a retrofit kit that will enable you to use LATCH in your new vehicle.

When combined with top tethers, LATCH car seats will provide much more security when traveling for your little ones than ever before.

Environmental Health and Safety
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4109

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 55