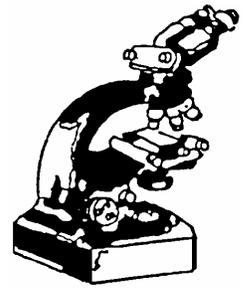




USDA-ARS

Logan Location Safety Notes



February 2003

OMSP

It's OMSP time! This stands for Occupational Medical Surveillance Program and is part of the USDA-ARS Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Board. OMSP provides medical monitoring to authorized employees potentially exposed to toxic or hazardous substances or potentially unhealthy work environments. It is designed only for the detection of occupationally significant medical abnormalities and is not a substitute for the care provided by an employee's personal physician.

You may notice some changes this year. The old program (OHMP; Occupational Health & Medical Program) worked off of a matrix from the 1970's to determine what medical tests to run for which exposures. The new program has been updated and a new medical matrix established. Only tests that actually track potential occupational exposures are required. Based on some trial runs, less blood work and urinalysis are required for the chemicals commonly used at the Logan research units.

Now for some definitions! An authorized employee is someone who has been specifically trained and assigned by a supervisor to work with or in the vicinity of qualifying hazards. Qualifying hazards are (1) required to wear respirators or hearing

protection; (2) apply pesticides labeled Danger or Warning; (3) biological hazards like human blood and body fluids, biohazards, or rabies; (4) exposure to animals (either small lab animals or large ones like cattle and sheep); and (5) exposure to chemicals which may negatively impact your health.

Supervisors (research leaders at Logan) identify employees who are eligible to participate in OHMP; the employees are then given the choice to participate or not. As with any new program, there are new forms! Participants fill out form 182A/B which asks them to list the chemicals or hazards (noise, radiation) they are exposed to. This doesn't mean you have to list every single chemical in your workplace! Exposed means you work with a chemical and/or physical hazard where the work environment is at or above the Action Level [one-half the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) or Threshold Limit Value (TLV)]. PELs are listed in 29 CFR 1910.1000; TLVs are from ACGIH (PELs can be found on the Web). Please give as much detail as possible for each exposure listed: where you work with it (bench, hood, field); possible entry routes (skin absorption, ingestion, inhalation); frequency (daily, seasonally); and duration (1 hour, 8 hours).

Once your supervisor signs the form (assuming you've chosen to participate in

OMSP), the information is plugged into the health matrix and it generates a list of the medical tests required. We also consult with the physicians performing the exams; they may choose to add more tests if necessary.

Form 182C is still the same; it's the detailed medical history form. You'll be given this form if this is the first time you're participating in the program; only the employee and the physician will see this information. Form 182C(2) just updates medical information; if you're a continuing participant, this is the only one you fill out.

And finally it's time to go to the exam! Currently, it's a two-visit process. The first visit is for lab work; the second visit for the physical exam and consultation with the physician. He/she will explain the results of the lab work and discuss the findings with you. A summary of the tests is sent to the USDA physician to review, and he then sends a detailed report directly to you. A summary memo is sent to the RL on whether or not the employee is medically able to do the work assigned and/or wear a respirator.

The physical exams are scheduled from mid-February through March. Currently, we are gathering bids from medical providers and hope to have one selected by the 15th. In the meantime, the various forms will be distributed to the eligible employees.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact your safety representative or myself (Terrie).



OIG Audit

As you may recall, last July the FRRL and PPRL were audited by OIG (Office of the Inspector General) for compliance with chemical, radiological, and biological inventories; security; and training. Bee Lab

wasn't included because they are in state-owned and -operated buildings. The inspector did an exhaustive review of training records, inventories, and security procedures during the week he was here. At our exit interview, we were given the results of his audit. We met the requirements!! Thanks for your cooperation in helping those of us responsible for the annual inventory updates, inspections, etc.



Location Safety Committee

Because of the number of employees at our location, we have a Location Safety Committee (LSC). The LSC has members from the three research units. We meet either in person or via email at least every 2 months to discuss safety questions or concerns, new regulations and programs, and results/implications of the annual safety inspections. You're welcome to bring up safety questions to your local LSC member or to the committee. Here are the members:

- ◆ Terrie Wierenga, chairman; LRPO (Location Radiation Protection Officer) and BSO (Biological Safety Officer)
- ◆ Lin Johnson, CHO (Chemical Hygiene Officer)
- ◆ Craig Rigby, FRRL
- ◆ Glen Trostle, Bee Lab
- ◆ Jerry Chatterton and John Watterson, continuing members



Questions? Comments?
Talk to Terrie at 752-2941 or terrie@cc.usu.edu
<http://www.usu.edu/pprlsaft>