

Logan Location Safety Notes



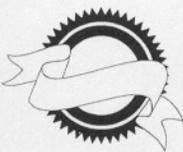
March 1997

SAFETY TALKS

The PPRL Safety Team has scheduled a series of seminars on various topics. The first one will be held Wednesday, **March 12**, at **2:00 pm** in the PPRL Conference Room. Frank Fish (from Cache County Search & Rescue) will be talking on **winter survival techniques**: what to carry in your vehicle, when to leave the vehicle for help, etc. All location employees and their spouses are invited to attend. The talk will run about 30 minutes with time afterwards for questions. Other topics to be addressed in this series:

- wilderness survival—first aid, CPR, and emergency response when you're far from help
- summer survival techniques—heat stress, heat stroke, vehicle preparedness
- snake and spider bites—first aid response
- fire safety

SAFETY AWARD



At the recent research leaders meeting for NPA, three Logan employees received an award for exceptional service on the Location

Safety Committee: Terrie Wierenga, Carolyn Jaussi, and Glen Trostle. Our research location in general is doing an excellent job in working with the Safety Committee to ensure a safe, healthy workplace for all employees. An effective safety program depends on everyone, not just one person or one group.

NEW POLICIES

Amendment to Utah rules and regulations on pesticide applicators: The state of Utah recently (December 3, 1996) amended its rules and regulations on licensing requirements for pesticide applicators. Non-commercial applicators do not need to be certified; however, **ONLY** certified applicators may apply restricted pesticides. Basically, this is a return to the previous requirements of three years ago. **How it affects us:** ARS requires all pesticide workers (handlers, early entry workers, crop advisors) to be trained before working rather than up to 16 days afterwards. Training requirements are the same for handlers, early entry workers, and crop advisors (see Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides, EPA, and ARS Safety Manual 230); certified applicators must be trained and licensed under Utah laws. As far as RSA's spraying pesticides:

based on ARS Safety Manual 230, RSA's would be precluded from applying pesticides unless they had a valid EPA-approved certified applicator license. We are still obligated to provide site-specific training (this would apply to commercial applicators as well).



OHMP/Medical Surveillance:

Anyone required to use a respirator must receive medical approval to do so, receive respirator use training, and be fit tested with the respirator/s they use annually. Dust masks, even though there is no accepted method of fit testing them, are considered respirators. If dust masks are used voluntarily to reduce exposure to nuisance dusts, then the respirator standard doesn't apply. OHMP should still be offered to employees who may be overexposed to pesticides (since most, if not all, pesticides are considered hazardous chemicals).

NPA Policy on Solid and Hazardous Waste Management: This policy statement was issued to provide uniformity for all NPA (Northern Plains Area) locations that dispose of solid and hazardous waste so that all are in compliance with ARS Manual 230 (Safety Manual). Major points of the policy include:

- waste disposal in sanitary landfills or by incineration (no open burning without Area approval);
- reduce, reuse, and recycle wherever and whenever possible;
- ARS-NPA facilities will not be used to dispose of, store, or recycle toxic, hazardous, radioactive, or medical wastes generated at facilities other than those owned or controlled by ARS-NPA.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

It takes a minute to write a safety rule.
It takes an hour to hold a meeting.
It takes a week to develop a safety program.
It takes a month to put it in operation.
It takes a year to win a safety award.
It takes a lifetime to train a safe worker.
It takes one second to destroy it all with one accident.

Penny's Thought



Laboratory self-checks: these are items that should be routinely checked in chemical use areas:

Before and after each use

- Is the hood operational?
- Are waste bottles labeled and recapped?
- Are chemicals returned to appropriate storage location?
- Are work areas cleaned up or decontaminated?

Weekly checks

- Flush eyewash stations.
- Replace full waste containers.
- Are compressed gas cylinders secured?
- Are aisles and exit paths clear of obstructions?
- Is access to emergency equipment clear?

Monthly checks

- Are outdated chemicals disposed of?
- Are chemicals labeled?
- Does any lab equipment need repaired/replaced?



Questions? Comments? Contact Terrie Wierenga at 752-2941 or terrie@cc.usu.edu