

U.S. National Poultry Research Center's Safety & Health Newsletter

We are working to keep you better informed and protected!

Volume 2, March 2015

On The Horizon...

April 22

Earth Day

Do something that will make a difference for our planet!

June 1st

The Globally Harmonized System for the Classification and Labeling of Chemicals must be fully implemented. This includes training requirements!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvQNf1Y7E84>

Visit Our Safety Website For:

- RRC SOP
- Active Shooter Response Plan
- Safety Newsletter Library
- SHEM Manual 160.0M
- Autoclave Log Sheet
- Emergency Procedures
- Spill Response Plan
- Hazard Assessment Forms

www.ars.usda.gov/SAA/RRC/Safety

 visit our website



Spring is a great time to clean out your lab or office, just don't let your junk end up in the hallways!

In this issue:

- Electricity and Breaker Panels
- Sharps Safety
- Transport of Materials within RRC

Electricity and Breaker Panels

When an employee receives a shock from an electrical circuit or appliance in the workplace, shutting off the source of power may be the only safe method of removing the individual from contact with the electric source. Easy access to electrical panels is essential for the protection of personnel, and panels should never be blocked or inaccessible. For speed in an emergency, it is also critical that circuit breakers be clearly labeled with accurate and up-to-date directories.

Blocking electrical panels that house circuit breakers is a violation of both Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and a violation of National Fire Protection Association Codes (NFPA). The Code of Federal Regulations and the National Electric Code establish legally required minimums for adequate clearance space around electrical equipment, including electrical panels and circuit breakers.

The Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1921.303 (g)) requires that facilities provide a minimum of three feet of clearance in front of electrical breaker panels. The National Electric Code (NFPA 70 110-26) requires a minimum of three feet of clearance for all electrical equipment serving 600 volts or less.

At the right are two examples of blocked electrical panels. These electrical panels are not only denied a three foot clearance, but the items in front of them would likely take a considerable amount of time to move in the event of an electrical emergency.

Here are some basic safety considerations for all panels:

- Maintain a clear area in front of the panel that is at least 3 feet wide.
- The panel should have a closed cover. The cover should not be locked unless work is in progress requiring a lockout procedure.
- Breakers should never be taped or Otherwise secured in the "closed" (on) Position. Each circuit breaker and Circuit is rated for a maximum amount of amperes. An ampere is the unit for measuring the rate of flow of electricity through the circuit. If the rate of flow in the circuit exceeds the designated maximum for the breaker, the breaker "trips" and stops the flow of electricity. If the breaker is not allowed to trip, insulators could melt from excessive conductor heat caused by electricity flowing too quickly! Fires or increased exposure to shock may also occur.



Sharps Safety In Review

Individuals working in ARS research laboratories must use extreme caution when working with contaminated needles and sharp instruments. Accidental percutaneous exposure (needlestick) or injuries sustained from contact with contaminated sharps are primary hazards to personnel working with biological agents. All sharp items must be handled in such a way as to avoid cuts and sticks to researchers and to anyone handling the items downstream who may come into contact with sharps and broken glass (janitorial staff or people at a landfill). Any item may be considered a sharp if it has the potential to cut. For example, plastics or metal objects that have been broken may leave a sharp jagged edge. Dispose of these as you would broken glass. For labs working with bloodborne pathogens, 29 CFR 1910.1030 must be followed. For all other labs policies for the safe handling of sharps, such as needles, scalpels, pipettes, and broken glassware must be developed and implemented in accordance with the *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (BMBL) 5th edition.

Whenever practical, laboratory supervisors should adopt improved engineering and administrative controls that reduce risk of sharps injuries. The following precautions, at a minimum, must always be taken with sharp items:

- Careful management of needles and other sharps are of primary importance. Needles must not be bent, sheared, broken, recapped, removed from disposable syringes, or otherwise manipulated by hand before disposal.
- Used disposable syringes must be carefully placed in conveniently located puncture-resistant containers used for sharps disposal.
- Non-disposable sharps must be placed in a hard walled container for transport to a processing area for decontamination, preferably by autoclaving.
- Broken glassware must not be handled directly. Instead, it must be removed using a brush and dustpan, tongs, or forceps. Plasticware should be substituted for glassware whenever possible.

CAUTION!

If you are stuck by a needle or other sharp or get blood or other potentially infectious materials in your eyes, nose, mouth, or on broken skin, immediately flood the exposed area with water and clean any wound with soap and water or a skin disinfectant if available. Report this immediately to your supervisor or facility safety professional and seek immediate medical attention.

In The Spot light!

Metal Recycling

Please be aware that metal items other than tin soup cans **do not** go into the Green Single Stream Recycling dumpsters on the basement loading dock. All other metal items go into the metal recycling dumpster behind the service building. If you are unable to carry the items to this dumpster make arrangements with FSE for assistance.



Transport of Materials within Russell Research Center

Any chemicals or biological materials transported between laboratories or buildings at RRC must follow the facility Standard Operating Procedures. This means:

- All containers must be securely sealed and placed in a secondary container(s) impervious to leaks and capable of holding the full volume of the largest chemical or biological substance.
- All primary containers must be properly labelled for easy identification should a spill occur.
- Clean PPE should be carried along with the transported materials and worn if handling of the materials becomes necessary.
- Gloves **should not be worn in elevators** or when opening or closing doors. This may spread contaminants or at least present the appearance of the possible spread of contaminants.
- Place bins on a cart and wheel materials between rooms. **DO NOT hand carry hazardous chemicals or biological materials!**
- Only the freight elevator should be used when it is available and no additional personnel should ride along if the material is hazardous.
- Do not leave hazardous chemicals or biological materials unattended in hallways.
- Disinfect cart surfaces and handles following transport.
- Be familiar with the location and use of the chemical and biological emergency spill kits located in the hallways.
- Properly and promptly disinfect and clean any spills that may occur and report the accident immediately.
- Ensure that all materials used during cleanup are properly disinfected and cleaned before returning them.
- Ask for help when needed!
- Provide help when asked!

US National Poultry Research Center
Location Safety Office
Phone: 706-546-3137
michael.hiles@ars.usda.gov