

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

We are working to keep you better informed and protected!

Volume 3, April 2015

On The Horizon...

May 10th
Mother's Day

Mid-May
We will be scheduling a safety committee meeting soon.

May 25th
Memorial Day
Federal Holiday
Let us never forget those that have sacrificed all for the freedoms we now enjoy.

June
Updated hazardous waste disposal training for all individuals that transfer hazardous waste to the hazardous waste building is being scheduled!

ATTENTION:

For those USNPRC employees working in the RRC tower, please avoid using the side doors during normal operational hours unless you are bringing in large items. Because our building maintains a negative pressure state, when opened, these doors allow large quantities of warm outside air to rush into the building and heat the building up.

Visit Our Safety Website
www.ars.usda.gov/SAA/RRC/Safety



Lab Safety:
Protect yourself,
protect your
students!



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Summer Student/Visitor Safety and Supervision

As we move into the summer our facility will have an increase in student/visitor presence. The U.S. National Poultry Research facility and staff will be hosting students from several organizations such as UGA Young Scholars, Wallace Carver Fellowship, and Peach State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in addition to those already here working on student internships. Our work with these institutions and agencies provides youth from high schools and colleges an opportunity to better understand the importance of scientific research, while gaining valuable hands-on experience in working research laboratories. While these young scholars are with us they will likely be exposed to many of the same hazards as our employees. However, due to a lack of familiarity with the facility and its associated operations, they will have a higher potential for an injury and/or illness. In keeping with the agency policy found in USDA REE Manual 160.0M Safety, Health, & Environmental Management Program, prior to any visitor or student visiting our laboratories several actions must take place:

- Visitors/Students must be briefed on the nature of the operation and on possible exposure to hazards. They must be informed of any required action necessary to limit or prevent exposures.
- Ladies and gentlemen must be advised of any hazards that may affect their reproductive health if such hazards are present.
- Where potential physical, chemical, radiological, or biological hazards exist, visitors and students will be escorted at all times to prevent or minimize potential contact/exposure to the hazards.
- Students/visitors must be provided with and required to correctly wear all the required personal protective equipment necessary for the locations in which they will work. Refusal of a student or visitor to utilize required protective equipment is considered reason to deny entry into the area.
- Prior to any supervised laboratory work by students, supervisors must complete and document lab specific safety training just as is required for all new location employees. A copy of the training forms should be provided to the location safety office.

Any incident involving student/visitor injury or illness (or actual harmful exposure to hazardous chemical or biological agents) must be reported immediately to the supervising scientist and the person in charge of the area where the incident occurred, as well as the location Safety & Occupational Health Specialist (SOHS). The SOHS will assist the person in charge of the area with an investigation into the incident and report it to the Center Director and prepare a written report.

Compressed Gas Cylinder Marking, Storage, & Handling

Marking

Gas cylinders must be tagged so that through visual inspection any individual can identify whether a cylinder is full or empty. Full cylinders must be stored separate from empty cylinders. [CGA 3.3.4 and 29 CFR 1910.101(b)]

A Cylinder Status tag needs to be attached to the cylinder that identifies if the cylinder is full (no contents have been withdrawn), in use (contents have been withdrawn and/or cylinder has been attached to either a distribution system or regulator), or empty (to be returned/disposed). The three part tags can be purchased from Thermo Fisher, Grainger or other safety supply vendors. An example of a commercially available three-part tag and the in-house usage is depicted in the example pictured here.



Storage

Take the following precautions to prevent injuries caused by asphyxiation, fire, explosion, high pressure, and improper handling of compressed gas cylinders.

NEVER

- Allow storage temperature to exceed 125°F (52°C).
- Permit open flames in oxidizer or flammable gas storage areas.
- Expose cylinders to corrosive materials such as ice melting compounds.

ALWAYS

- Store cylinders upright with valve outlet seals and valve protection caps in place.
- Secure cylinders when in storage, transit, or use.
- Store cylinders in areas designated for that purpose.
- Segregate full and empty cylinders.
- Visually inspect stored cylinders on a routine basis, or at least weekly, for any indication of leakage or problems.
- Store only the amount of compressed gas required for the specific application.

Handling

NEVER

- Drag or slide cylinders, even for short distances.
- Drop cylinders or permit them to strike each other violently.
- Permit oil, grease, or other readily combustible substance to come in contact with cylinders, valves, or other equipment in oxidizer service.

ALWAYS

- Move cylinders using a suitable hand truck or cart.
- Use the proper PPE for cylinder handling. Wear safety glasses with side shields, leather gloves, safety shoes, and other appropriate equipment.
- When returning cylinders for supplier pickup, properly close the cylinder valve, replace and secure any valve outlet seals, and properly install the cylinder cap.

In The Spot light!

Furniture and Equipment in Halls

There has been a recent rise in the amount of furniture placed the hallways of the RRC tower. We understand the need to find a place to dispose of old furniture as you update your labs and offices; however, the hallways is not an option for furniture or equipment storage.

Our facility was designed in such a way that all the tower corridors serve as primary emergency exit routes. Life Safety Code 7.1.10.2.1 requires that “No furnishings, decorations, or other objects shall obstruct exits, access thereto, egress therefrom, or visibility thereof.” Our policy at the USNPRC is that items may be placed in hallways during office/lab rearrangements for a maximum of 24 hours.

If you wish to GSAccess these items see Amanda Cravens in the LSO main office for the steps you will need to take to begin this process or call 706-546-3541.

Drain Disposal Restrictions

Appendix K of the RRC SOP, which can be found on our safety website, provides the guidelines on the prohibited discharge standards for Athens-Clarke County.

Improper drain disposal of chemicals at USNPRC has the potential to cause a number of safety and health problems for our personnel and potentially others downstream. Think twice before you dump it and ask yourself these questions!

1. Is it a regulated hazardous waste?
2. Is the pH less than 5.5 or more than 10.0?
3. Is it a pollutant which creates a fire or explosive hazard?
4. Is it a solid or media that will solidify as it cools and could cause an obstruction of flow?
5. Is it a noxious or malodorous substance that could create a hazard to life?
6. Could it by itself or by interaction with other pollutants interfere with the Publicly Owned Treatment Works?

Section 12 of the Safety Data sheet can provide important warning information about a chemical’s potential to harm our environment.

Learn the proper disposal methods for everything you use. If it can go down the drain always chase it with at least 4 minutes of water in order to force it all the ways out of the pipes within our building. Anything less will allow the chemical to sit and corrode our plumbing and could allow harmful vapors to invade another space. It is always better to be safe than sorry!

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