

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

Volume 6, December 2015

**We are working to keep you better informed and protected!**

## *On The Horizon...*

### **JAN. 1**

New Year's Day  
Federal Holiday

### **JAN. 8**

Lab Biosafety/Safety Inspection  
Checklists Due (RRC Campus)

### **JAN. 18**

Birthday of  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Federal Holiday

### **FEB. 5**

Chemical Inventory Updates Due

### **FEB. 15**

President's Day  
Federal Holiday

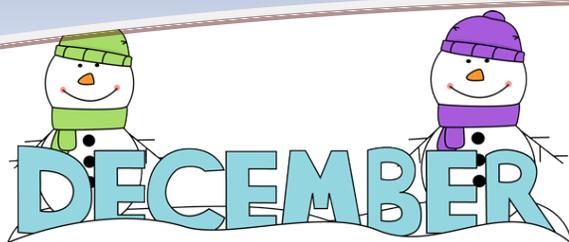
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## In this issue:

- Proper Chemical Storage & Segregation
- Active Shooter Plan Review
- Chemical Inventories for FY2016

## Are Chemicals Stored Correctly In Your Lab?

There are five key reasons for all laboratory supervisors to properly store their chemicals:

1. To provide for effective management of chemicals
2. To lessen the risk of fire
3. To prevent accidental mixing in emergencies
4. To minimize exposure to corrosive and toxic chemicals
5. To comply with relevant statutory security obligations

Safe storage of chemicals must begin with the identification of the chemicals to be stored and their intrinsic hazardous properties. All necessary information will be found on the Safety Data Sheet for a given chemical. At a minimum, all laboratory chemicals must be segregated and stored by general hazard class. Under the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) adopted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the majority of the hard work of chemical hazard classification has already been accomplished.

By now, all laboratory personnel should be somewhat familiar with the GHS pictograms (Figure 1) that can be found on all new chemical labels. These pictograms represent the primary hazard classes for all chemicals entering our facility.

A GHS pictograms scheme has been established where a substance or mixture presents more than one GHS hazard. The first pictogram listed will be the most severe hazard with each additional pictogram providing an additional hazard warning. When more than one pictogram is displayed on the label the chemicals should be segregated based on the first pictogram.



Figure 1: GHS Pictograms

The pictograms can also serve as your shelf label to identify which chemicals should be stored in that location. This will allow new chemicals to be easily segregated by hazard class simply by matching the pictogram on the shelf with the one on the bottle. Once in their hazard class, chemicals can be further sorted alphabetically.

## Common Examples of Improper Storage Practices to Avoid:

- Storing chemicals alphabetically without consideration of incompatibilities.
- Chemicals stored on shelves above average eye-level / head height.
- Chemicals stored in direct sunlight causing degradation of both the chemical and the plastic packaging.
- Shelves are overcrowded and chemical containers are stacked on top of others.

## Review of Our Emergency Action Plan for an Active Shooter Situation

There are three basic responses for individuals in an Active Shooter situation: RUN, HIDE, or FIGHT.

- 1) **RUN** – Your best choice should be to run if your escape path is clear.  
When attempting to escape be sure to:
  - Have an escape route and plan in mind
  - Evacuate regardless of whether other agree to follow
  - Don't stop to collect belongings
  - Help others escape, if possible
- 2) **HIDE** – If evacuation is not possible your next best choice is to find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you.  
Your hiding place should:
  - Be out of the active shooter's view
  - Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction
  - Not trap you or restrict your options for movement
- 3) **FIGHT** – Take action against the active shooter  
As a last resort, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:
  - Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
  - Throwing items and using improvised weapons
  - Yelling Committing to your actions

Be aware that the first officers to arrive at the scene will not stop to help injured persons. They are there to confront the active shooter. React to law enforcement by:

- Remaining calm, and following instructions, and avoid screaming
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
- Immediately raise hands and keep them visible
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or directions when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which the officers are entering the premises.

This Plan is based on the Department of Homeland Security guidance document "Active Shooter: How to Respond".

## FY2016 Chemical Inventories

It is both an Agency and Regulatory requirement that chemical inventories be maintained and up-to-date. Each January all USNPRC laboratories are required to review and update their chemical inventories along with the corresponding Safety Data Sheets. The updated inventories must then be posted on or next to the entry door to each lab by February 5, 2016.

Additionally, an updated copy of the inventory must be submitted to the Safety and Occupational Health Specialist who will then compile all inventories into a master document that will be submitted to the Eastern Business Service Center and to the local fire department.

The format remains the same as last year with the following headings:

1. Chemical Name
2. CAS number
3. Manufacturer
4. Quantity
5. Lab Location
6. Physical State
7. Hazard Class
8. Lab Supervisor
9. Safety Data Sheet On-hand (yes/no)

Please, email the updated inventories to:

[michael.hiles@ars.usda.gov](mailto:michael.hiles@ars.usda.gov)

## In The Spot light!

### The US National Poultry Research Center has a New Center Director.

Dr. Eileen Thacker obtained her Bachelor in Veterinary Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from the University of Minnesota. Following graduation from Veterinary College, Dr. Thacker practiced in Minnesota. She moved to Michigan and worked in the Michigan State University Diagnostic Laboratory as an Endocrinologist. While there, she obtained her Ph.D (1992) in Pathology. Dr. Thacker then performed a post-doctoral fellowship at the USDA-ARS Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory working on Avian Leukosis Virus. In 1994 she moved to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine where she was a member of the faculty in Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine Department performing research on swine respiratory diseases including *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus, porcine circovirus and swine influenza viruses. She became Board Certified in Veterinary Microbiology in 1996. At Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, she actively mentored the graduate programs of more than 50 students and taught veterinary and graduate immunology and infectious disease courses. She was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2006. In 2008 she became an ARS National Program Leader in Animal Health where her responsibilities include overseeing the bacterial and parasitic research projects for the agency. She also oversees the animal welfare and use at ARS in addition to serving on numerous interagency working groups. A primary area of work at ARS is representing the agency in the select agent and dual use research of concern working groups. She successfully completed the Biosafety and Biosecurity Course in Fort Collins, CO in 2011 and has been on the steering committee for the ARS ABSA International Symposia in 2011, 2013, and 2015. In 2014, she became National Program Leader for Food Safety where she oversees ARS research on pre-harvest food safety in animals and leads the research and direction on Antimicrobial Resistance research and policy for ARS. Dr. Thacker joined our team as the new Center Director for the US National Poultry Research Center in Athens, GA on November 1, 2015.

