



EH&S News

Environmental Health and Safety University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Editor: Robert DiCarlo

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Do You Generate Hazardous Waste?

If you generate a hazardous waste (HW) from a process involving hazardous materials, go to the EH&S web page and fill in a Hazardous Waste Pickup Request when the HW needs to be removed from your site.

You must be trained and certified annually. Go to <http://ehstrain.admin.umass.edu> for web training.

It is a violation (civil or criminal penalties) of hazardous waste regulations to dispose of hazardous waste as part of regular trash disposal. EH&S wants to remind you to do several things when you wish to get rid of hazardous wastes.

1. Be sure that your hazardous waste is properly labeled. Labeling information is provided in "Waste Management at UMASS," a published guide. If you need a label, please call our office at 545-2682 for assistance.

2. Inspect your hazardous waste accumulation area weekly. This is done to insure that the waste poses no danger of leaking, spilling or mixing with other hazardous substances. EH&S provides secondary containment totes for this purpose at no cost. Call us if you need a tote.

The Preferred Way to Submit a Hazardous Waste Pickup Request is by going to the EH&S Web Site:

<http://www.umass.edu/safety/hazwasteform>

Or you can also FAX us at 545-2600

Or if you have additional questions, please feel free to call us at 545-2682

Battery Disposal

Batteries are classified as Universal Waste and should be sorted by type (alkaline, nickel-cadium or lithium-ion). The disposal procedures that are used by the University for batteries are as follows:

Accumulate batteries in a plastic container. Use tape to cover electrodes. Label "Used Battery(ies)" , or "Waste-Battery(ies)". For disposal you can mail them via campus mail to the Intermediate Processing Facility (IPF). If there are too many batteries for campus mail, bring them to the IPF.

Batteries are a potential waste which are not a threat in their intact form. These wastes pose a threat when they are incinerated, broken or dismantled.

James P. Fox, Mgr.
HWM Services
eh&s/Morrill N-414,
Univ. of MA/Amherst
01003-5710

email:
jpfox@ehs.umass.edu

phone: 413.545.5117

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Water Quality Report

EH&S received The Annual Water Quality Report from the Town of Amherst's Public Works Department. The report identifies the seven water sources for the town. The average percentages of town water consumption over the past five years were as follows: Residential and Commercial 52%, UMass 42%, Amherst College 4% and Hampshire College 2%.

What is the Water Quality?

The report provides data which indicates the levels of Inorganic Contaminants and Volatile Organic Contaminants. All are below levels of known or expected risk to health. In the year 2000, drinking water supplied by the Town of Amherst met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state drinking water health standards.

The Water Quality Report for the Town of Amherst can be viewed at:

WWW.TOWN.AMHERST.MA.US

Important Note: Only potable water is fit for human consumption. Do not use other sources of water for consumption.

What About Hazardous Chemical Disposal

Hazardous substances that include motor oil, pesticides, herbicides, paint and paint thinner should be disposed of properly. If any of these substances are dumped into the ground they will contaminate the water supply. UMass has established hazardous waste disposal procedures that must be followed in accordance with federal and state regulations. Violations of such regulations are subject to harsh penalties. For residents of Amherst the Town has hazardous material collection days twice a year, paint collection five days a year. Motor oil can be brought to the landfill any time. Amherst residents should call the Solid Waste/Recycling (SWR) at 256-4049 for further information on proper disposal procedures.

For information on proper hazardous Waste Disposal Procedures at UMass please call EH&S at 545-2682 or visit us at:

<http://www.umass.edu/safety/>

Substitution of Hazardous Chemicals

During recent laboratory inspections we have noted that many laboratories continue to use and store chemicals that are human carcinogens such as benzene, arsenic, carbon tetrachloride, benzidine and benzidine dyes. A more complete listing and proper handling procedures are available in the Laboratory Health and Safety Manual which can be obtained on line at the Environmental Health and Safety web site. All personnel should be aware of the hazards of these compounds. These compounds should be used in a fume hood at all times. Personal protective equipment should be worn (gloves, splash goggles etc).

If a substitute is available it should be used and the carcinogenic material disposed of through Environmental Health and Safety.

Hazardous Waste Training

Laboratory personnel must receive initial hazardous waste training in his/her first year of employment. In subsequent years the employee must receive the HW Refresher Training. Both of these trainings are available in classroom settings or over the internet.

In order for an employee to login to the internet training, the following must be done:

1. Log on to OWL (Online Web-based Learning). Owl is a web-based system used by a number of departments at UMass. Only registered users who work with a web browser can access the system. Off campus guests can be rostered into the program. Training sessions are recorded automatically by OWL.
The training programs are located at:
<http://ehstrain.admin.umass.edu>
2. Select the Program Area "Education and Training" and click link in the OWL paragraph.
3. Once in OWL login in by using your social security number and your last name.

When you finish the training in OWL you can print a copy of the training certificate.

IS IT SAFE TO CROSS NOW?

Pedestrians of all ages are struck by cars—injured or killed every day in the United States. Our campus and the surrounding communities are not immune from such tragedies. Anyone is a potential victim. Many motor vehicle-pedestrian incidents are due to unsafe crossing behavior of pedestrians and driver error.

No matter how old you are, it is important to stop at the curb and look to the left, to the right and to the left again before you step out into the street. This also applies when you are at an intersection with traffic or pedestrian lights, where you must be especially alert for turning vehicles. Drivers may be preoccupied with other vehicles and not aware of pedestrian traffic.

Many people are wrapped up in their own little world and are oblivious to their surroundings. Our staff at EH&S has observed people walking into the street while reading books. It may sound crazy... but it is true. It is important to pay attention to traffic when you are rushing between classes, talking to friends, and generally moving around campus. Remember that the drivers around the University may also be preoccupied with other tasks rather than driving.

A 150-pound student is no match for a 5,000-pound automobile.

There may be many types of visual screens that make it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. Before stepping off the curb, make sure that all drivers can see you and have stopped for you. Look the operator in the eyes to see where the driver is looking. If the driver is not looking at you, chances are they do not see you. Just because one car has stopped does not mean other drivers are aware of your presence. The other drivers may not have noticed you standing there waiting to cross.

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Telephone: 1- 413-545-2682
Fax: 1- 413-545-2600
e-mail: safety@admin.umass.edu
<http://www.umass.edu/safety/>
Dr. Donald A. Robinson, *Director*
Mary McEneaney, *Associate Director*

When walking in parking lots or past driveways, look for backup lights. Most motor-vehicle crashes occur when both the pedestrian and driver are in a hurry or not paying attention. Look for drivers in vehicles and listen for engine noise. If the driver does not see you and indicate for you to proceed, then just wait for the vehicle to pass.

As a pedestrian, you may have the right-of-way when crossing the street, but if the driver doesn't see you or stop for you, that "right-of-way" may cost you your life.

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**Environmental Health and Safety
N-414 Morrill Science Center
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003**

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New Radiation Safety Services Officer

EH&S is proud to announce the appointment of Haneef Sahabdeen as the Radiation Safety Services Officer for the EH&S Radiation Safety Services Program.

Haneef has worked for EH&S for over seven years prior to his promotion. He was previously employed as a Fire and Safety Officer with the Fire and Safety Services Program. Haneef has a BS in Environmental Health with a minor in Public Health from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Both of Haneef's parents are employed at the University with combined years of service in excess of three decades.

Haneef lives with his wife Nazrin and his son Faarooq in Amherst.



Haneef Sahabdeen
