THE FIVE COLLEGES OF OHIO
www.ohio5.org

# P2-PROGRESS
Pollution Prevention Progress

Vol. 1, Issue 3, Summer 2005

## Ohio5 Colleges Complete First Round of P2 Workshops

During the spring months of 2005, the Ohio5 colleges participated in the first round of Ohio EPA sponsored pollution prevention workshops designed for college employees in the sciences, art and theater departments. The first round of workshops were designed to lay a common baseline of understanding regarding the regulatory requirements and recommended practices and procedures for handling of hazardous materials in the college laboratory and studio. A total of 179 college employees including faculty, staff and student workers attended these sessions. The second round of P2 workshops, scheduled for fall 2005, will focus on hazards related to specific processes within each department and methods to reduce pollution and /or hazardous by-products. These items will be featured in a new manual to be distributed at the fall sessions.
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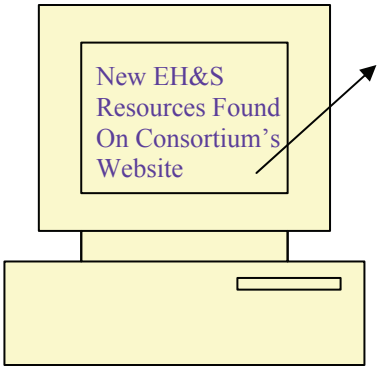


The Five Colleges of Ohio's Environmental Health and Safety webpage has added new resources and links. These new items include online environmental health and safety training websites. One link is to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's (HHMI) Laboratory Safety Training. This online training takes approximately one hour

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## P2 Newsletter Spotlight

### Mercury Reduction

Several of the Ohio5 colleges are in the process of replacing instruments containing elemental mercury. In late July, the U.S. EPA added mercury-containing equipment to the universal waste rule. The universal waste rule provides streamlined management requirements tailored to several different kinds of waste. The types of waste governed by the universal waste rule are frequently thrown in the trash by
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## NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards - Download Free

The NPG is intended as a source of general industrial hygiene information on several hundred chemicals/classes for workers, employers, and occupational health professionals. Although the NPG does not contain an analysis of all pertinent data, it presents key information and data in abbreviated or tabular form for chemicals or substance groupings (e.g. cyanides, fluorides, manganese compounds) that are found in the work environment. The information found in the NPG should help you recognize and control occupational chemical hazards.

The Pocket Guide includes:

1. Chemical names, synonyms, trade names, conversion factors, CAS, RTECS, and DOT numbers
2. NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limits (NIOSH RELs)
3. Occupational Safety and Health Administration Permissible Exposure Limits (OSHA PELs)
4. NIOSH Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health values (NIOSH IDLHs)
5. A physical description of the agent with chemical and physical properties
6. Measurement methods
7. Personal protection and sanitation recommendations
8. Respirator recommendations
9. Information on health hazards including route, symptoms, first aid and target organ information.

The latest printed edition of the NIOSH Pocket Guide is dated February 2004 and contains information on 677 chemicals or substance groupings.

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Questions about the Five Colleges of Ohio Consortium? Please contact Susan Palmer, Executive Director at: palmers@kenyon.edu or 740-427-5234. For questions regarding this newsletter please contact Kris Pohlman, EE Specialist at: krpohlma@owu.edu or 740-368-3502.

**Ohio5 (cont.)**

The fall sessions will also feature a question and answer period as this was a highly requested item on the round-one workshop evaluations. After each spring workshop, an evaluation was used to measure the quality and value of the session. The respondents were asked to rate 12 items on a scale from one to four with four meaning "strongly agree" and one meaning "strongly disagree." Perhaps the most important finding was the following, "Changes to work routines will occur in response to knowledge gained from this program." Out of 117 participants answering this question, 75 answered with a "4" meaning they strongly agreed. This is an encouraging response and The Five Colleges of Ohio consortium hopes to improve this mark with the second round of trainings. To schedule your fall workshop, please contact your college's Environmental Health and Safety professional or call 740-368-3502.

**Mercury (cont.)**

unregulated households and small businesses. Classifying an item as a universal waste provides flexibility for its proper management and can prevent the item from entering municipal trash. Instead, it can be readily collected and disposed of at a hazardous waste facility. Several programs exist to encourage entities to recycle common mercury-containing items such as thermometers and thermostats. Ohio5 colleges are utilizing the U.S. EPA's National Waste Minimization Partnership Program and the Ohio EPA's Elemental Mercury Collection and Reclamation Program. The Ohio EPA's program is free and is available to groups including academic institutions throughout most of Ohio. To find out the regional contact for your college, visit: www.bgsu.edu/offices/envhs/environmental_health/mercury/index.htm

All brands of wall-mounted, mercury-switch thermostats can be recycled. At present, interested parties can return thermostats, free of charge, during normal trips to their participating HVAC wholesalers in all 48 states on the United States mainland. The wholesalers in turn send the used units to the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) so that the mercury can be purified for re-use. TRC, which is located in Rosslyn, Virginia, is a not-for-profit corporation founded by three thermostat manufacturers - Honeywell, General Electric, and White-Rodgers. The National Electronics Manufacturers Association (NEMA) supports it. In 2003, TRC reported that it collected 65,000 thermostats and processed 626 pounds of mercury. For more information, visit http://www.nema.org/trc or call 1-800-238-8192.

**Ohio EPA Guidance on Waste Aerosol Cans and Laboratory Waste**

OEPA's quarterly newsletter includes updated guidance for Ohio hazardous waste generators on the management of aerosol cans, laboratory waste, and hazardous waste contingency plans. This issue also features some of the most frequently found violations. One top violation listed is failure of generators to properly evaluate their waste. According to the newsletter article found within the "Ask the Inspector" section, "under Ohio EPA's regulations, all wastes generated by a business must be evaluated to determine whether they are hazardous before disposal. If you have a material that can no longer be used, it is considered a waste. OAC rule *3745-52-11* provides you with step-by-step instructions to properly evaluate your waste." To see the complete newsletter, visit: http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dhwm/pdf/NotifierSpring05.pdf

**Resources (cont.)**

to complete and covers pertinent subject matter for all those working in academic and/or research laboratories. The HHMI program covers many applicable federal laws such as OSHA's Laboratory Standard. To view this training, see www.ohio5.org/training.html and for more EH&S links please visit the following webpage: www.ohio5.org/environ.htm#LINKS

**NIOSH (cont.)**

Printed copies of the NIOSH Pocket Guide (NPG) are available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) and the Government Printing Office (GPO) or you can download it using http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg.html#download

Envirolingo - new and breaking terms of interest found in environmental literature. This issue's term is…

***thalweg -*** *Deepest part of a stream channel. (Source: Office of Water: Protocol for Developing Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load )(TMDL): Glossary Term Detail)*