

# Radiation Safety Refresher Training for 2011

**Sue Dupre, Radiation Safety Officer  
Steve Elwood, Assistant RSO**

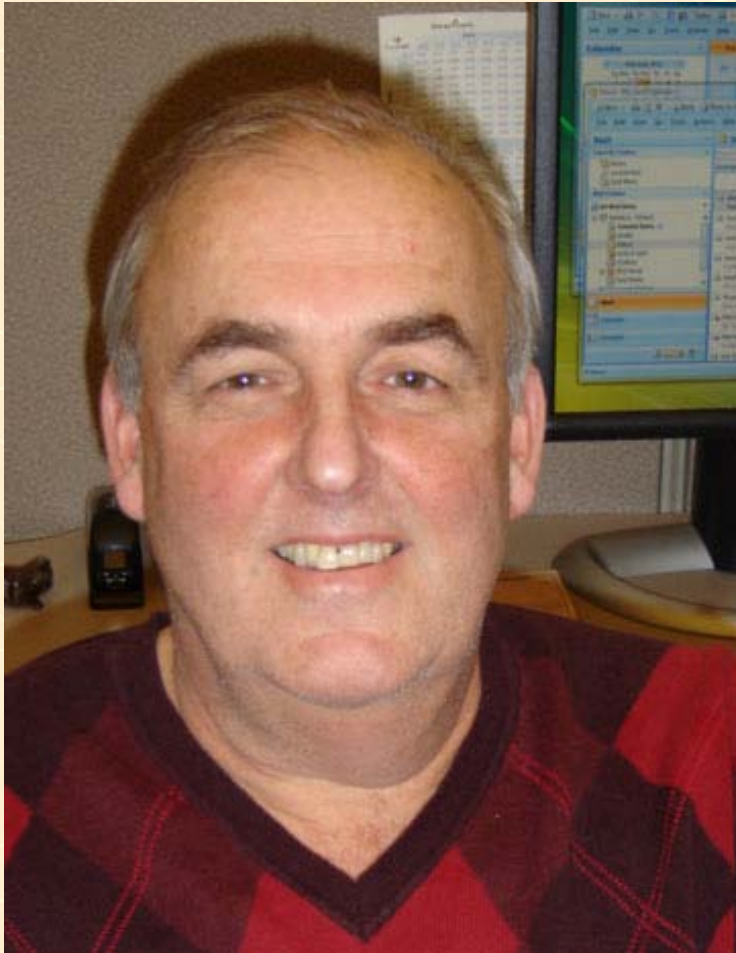
**Environmental Health & Safety**



# Training Topics

- Introduction to a new EHS staff member
- Anticipated NJDEP Inspection in 2011
- The results of findings from lab audits throughout the year
- New training schedule for Mol Bio juniors
- What happens when a member of another lab wants to do rad work in your lab
- How and why to inactivate radioisotope authorizations
- A reminder about incident and emergency response
- We are pleased to report that there were no contamination incidents or other radiation-related incidents this past year!

# A New Addition to the EHS Staff



Tom Drexel  
Radiation Safety Technician

# NJDEP Inspection



An inspection by the NJDEP is likely to occur this year. We are typically inspected every 3 years. How can you prepare?

- Consistently fill out records such as Vials Use Logs, Survey Logs, Sink Disposal Logs, etc. Are your records easy to find?
- Be sure radioisotope areas and contaminated items are appropriately labeled. Remove unnecessary labeling.
- Clean out your rad inventory and remove build-ups of radioactive waste.
- Is training for all lab personnel up-to-date?
- Pay attention to security matters. Is your lab locked when no one is there?

# Sample Inspection Questions

- If an NJDEP inspector comes to your lab, the inspector may interview you even if you are not a radioisotope user. However, the questions the inspector may ask are likely to be different depending on whether you are a rad user or not.
- Can you answer the sample Interview Questions provided by EHS? EHS has sent out sample questions and answers to each lab, for both rad users and non-rad users. If you didn't receive the list of questions, ask your lab manager or your lab radiation safety contact person or call EHS at 8-5294 to request the list.

# Survey Meter Use

- An inspector may ask you to demonstrate how to use the survey meter.
- Remember that you must perform a preoperational check each time you use the meter.
  - Battery
  - Background
  - Calibration
  - Check source



- If you're uncertain about how to perform the preoperational check or to do a survey, review the process with your lab manager or ask EHS.

# Annual Audits by the Radiation Safety Committee

- Each year the Committee conducts an intensive audit of operations in some of its radioisotope labs.
- This helps the University to identify problems and to prepare for regulatory inspections.
- This year we primarily found problems related to the use of unauthorized rooms for radioisotope work and labeling of equipment.

# The Audit - Unauthorized Locations of Radioisotope Use

We found two labs in which radioisotope water baths and shakers had been moved out the rad room into rooms that were not authorized for rad work. In both cases, the water baths and shakers were still being used for rad work.

- ☞ Don't move equipment used in radioisotope work from authorized locations to unauthorized locations.

# The Audit - Unnecessary Radioactive Labeling



We found several pieces of equipment with old faded Radioactive labeling in several labs. The equipment was no longer being used for rad work.

We don't want researchers to disregard Radioactive labeling. If you see Radioactive labeling on equipment, you must treat that item as if it is potentially contaminated.

- ☞ When equipment is no longer being used for rad work, survey it (or ask EHS to survey it) and remove the labeling.

# Training Schedule for Mol Bio Juniors



- In the past, initial radiation safety training for Mol Bio juniors was conducted in the fall or winter, which means that these students were required to complete refresher training during their senior years.
- Starting with 2011, initial radiation safety training for these juniors will be scheduled in April of each year.
- This timing means that these students will not be required to complete refresher training during their senior year, starting in 2012.

# Can Researchers from Other Labs Do Radioisotope Work in Your Lab?

- Since fewer labs are using radioactive material, we hear about more situations where a researcher, who is not authorized for radioisotope work, has a sporadic need to use radioactive material and wants to work under another PI's radioisotope authorization.
- If someone from another lab asks you whether he/she can do radioisotope work in your lab, refer the request to the PI in charge of your lab.
- The PI in charge of a radioisotope-authorized lab has the right to decide whether to permit researchers from other labs to perform radioisotope work and has the right to say no.



If the PI is willing to accept responsibility and to provide supervision, then the PI must send an email to Sue Dupre indicating that he/she agrees it is OK for the member of the other lab to do rad work.



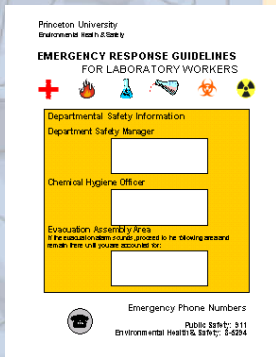
# Inactivating Radioisotope Authorizations

If you reasonably anticipate that you will not need to use radioactive materials for a year or more, consider applying to inactivate your authorization.

- While your authorization is inactivated, there is no requirement for quarterly inventory reviews, monthly sewer reports, refresher training, initial training, instrument calibrations, and no other routine radiation-related emails from EHS.
- To reactivate authorizations:
  - Simply notify EHS to reactivate the authorizations.
  - EHS will present a special refresher training session for your lab.



**If you develop a sudden need to use radioactive materials, we expect that we could have you ready to start work within 2-3 days.**



# Incident Notification

- What number do you call for a radiation-related incident?

*It depends on when you call. During normal business hours, call EHS at 8-5294. After normal working hours, call Public Safety at 8-1000.*

- What number do you call for any type of emergency in your laboratory building?

*Call 9-1-1 from a campus phone or 258-3333 from your cell phone. Both of these numbers will go through to Public Safety's emergency line.*

# Radiation Safety Program Feedback

Your questions, comments, suggestions  
and feedback are welcome.

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