

Oct. - Dec. 2009

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Fisher Product Show
Mellon Hall
Week of October 26th

EHS/Radiation Safety
Committee Meeting
November 17, 2009

Hazard Walkthroughs

October 20th:
Law School

November 17th:
Rangos

December 15th:
Canevin

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Questions or concerns regarding this newsletter or safety in general may be directed to:
safety@duq.edu

The Safety Chronicle

Perspectives Phil Hoschar on Safety

Paula Sweitzer

Phil Hoschar has been working at Duquesne University since 1978 as the Lab Manager for the Biology Department. Over the years, Phil has seen some changes within the safety of his department, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

When he first started here, there was no safety department to oversee labs. Many folks were wearing lab coats only during the wet, sloppy work. It was rare to see individuals wearing goggles and safety glasses during routine work; it was only during work with dangerous chemicals that folks would don the appropriate eyewear. There was no real definition between what was hazardous and what wasn't; a lot of the teaching labs involved only salts and dilutions that are no more dangerous than overeating on Thanksgiving Day.

Phil thought that

the research labs were somewhat ahead of the teaching labs, in that they wore more PPE during their work. But there were no safety trainings available at that time. Most safety was learned from the standard labs on how to handle your typical acids and bases and how to use the fume hoods.

Safety equipment was another issue. There were no eyewash stations on the floor. In the early 80's,



Contributors Phil Hoschar, Paul Johnson & Paula Sweitzer.

Dr. Ehrlich started buying eyewash bottles for every lab and fire blankets for the teaching labs and common areas. There was, of course, waste being generated, but it was a battle on who would handle it. Eventually there was an agreement between

Biology and Facilities Management to help in the disposal of the hazardous waste.

Safety awareness grew from there, as there was a push for a safety department to handle such things as safety equipment and generated wastes. During teaching labs of today, if there is any wet-work to be done, all students must wear safety glasses and disposable gloves. Lab coats are only worn by the teaching assistants of that lab; more as an identifier, than for safety.

Phil has noticed that with the newer generation of professionals that come to campus, they already have a sense of safety instilled in them from their previous line of work. It seems to be more difficult for the individuals that have been here for several years, as change is hard. For the future, there seems to be a continued influence from the new generation that will help to shift the overall outlook on safety and make our work environment a safer place.

Dr. Paul Johnson on “The Evolution of Safety at Duquesne”

Paula Sweitzer

Dr. Paul Johnson is currently the Director of Departmental Affairs in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry who has been on campus since 1968; he was one of the first to move into Mellon Hall as a graduate student. In 1971, Dr. Johnson left Duquesne to complete his post-doctorate work at Cornell University, but then came back in 1976. He started his career at Duquesne as a researcher, which led into a part-time and eventually full-time teaching position.

Over the years, Dr. Johnson has witnessed many changes; Safety procedures were slowly insti-

tuted throughout Chemistry and Biochemistry, but really originated in the undergraduate teaching labs of freshmen and sophomores. Students in the labs were required to take a safety test, with a passing grade of 100%. Then, with the popularization of VCRs, videos came into play and all freshmen and sophomore labs were required to watch an ACS safety video.

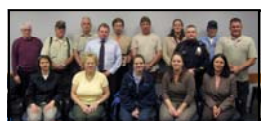
Around that time, a safety committee was developed within the Chemistry Department. This committee would inspect labs and monitor safety.

Before the labs started scaling down their reactions, the students would be required to memorize where all the safety equipment was in their lab. To test them, they would be required to sketch the lab with the location of that safety

equipment. In the teaching labs today, there are safety rules written into the lab manuals and every lab procedure has a designated safety/hazards section that must be filled out prior to lab. During the pre-lab discussion, safety requirements and procedures are always covered. If a student is late and missed that discussion, they are not permitted into the lab.

Overall, safety has come a long way and continues to grow. Dr. Johnson feels that over the past three years, safety has come from the shadows and has been brought into the light. This can be attributed to several things, but those weekly inspections keep everybody on their toes. For the future of safety, Dr. Johnson believes that spending more time on enforcement will improve safety overall.

“Safety has come from the shadows and has been brought into the light.”



1993: Labor Management Safety Committee formed.

1968: Paul Johnson joins Chemistry Department.

1998: Formation of Radiation Safety Department.

2002: Hazard Detection Subcommittee begins Hazard Walkthroughs.

2007: Blackboard Training launched using Driver Safety Training as a pilot course.

1978: Phil Hoschar joins Biology Department.

1998: Safety Suggestion Form is introduced.

2003: Paul King becomes Department Director as safety activities coalesce into official Environmental Health & Safety Department.

2009: Madelyn Reilly steps up as the new EH&S Director.



2007: The Safety Chronicle debuts.



Dangerous Goods Shipping Program

Paula Sweitzer

EH&S has developed a shipping program for any dangerous goods shipment. A dangerous good is any substance or material that is capable of posing a risk to health, safety or property and these shipments are regulated by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA). There are only three individuals on campus that are trained to ship such items: George Bender, Vanessa Fowler, and myself.

With this new shipping program, it will be up to you, the shipper, to identify the material and pro-

vide information to EH&S to help us classify the shipment. To do this, there is now a form that must be submitted to EH&S - the [Dangerous Goods Shipment Request form](#). EH&S will then use this form to help you package, label and mark your container, and fill out any necessary paperwork.

To ensure your shipment goes out on time, we must receive this request form at least three days prior to your expected ship date. For more information, please visit our website at www.ehs.duq.edu and look under Lab Safety.

Dangerous Goods include:

- Hazardous Substances
- Laboratory Chemicals
- Compressed Gases
- Biological Agents
- Diagnostic Specimens
- Instruments
- Equipment that might contain a hazardous material
- Dry Ice Shipments

Fire Prevention Week Recap

Vanessa Fowler

We celebrated Fire Prevention Week with an ambitious itinerary this year: 9 Floor Marshal training sessions, hands-on fire extinguisher training and 28 evacuation drills.

Many thanks to all the Floor Marshals and other Duquesne-ers who attended the training- we had some lively

discussions this year!

As of printing, 28 of 30 buildings had completed evacuation drills and nearly all of the buildings passed. Thanks to one person who insisted on taking her things to her office first, Canevin Hall failed by going over its time allowed by 30 seconds. Brottier Hall also failed by 15 seconds.

The drills went off fairly well...just a reminder that ALL building occupants must evacuate when the alarm sounds. There is a City of Pittsburgh fine of \$500 for individuals who refuse to evacuate.



Safety Photo of the Quarter



What's wrong with this picture?

Photo Credit: <http://ginreg.blogspot.com/>



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

**Your one-stop safety info
source: check out our
website! Visit
www.ehs.duq.edu**

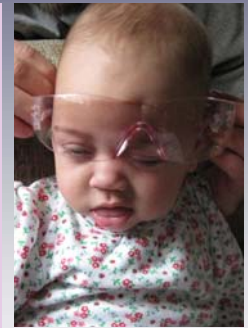
Main Phone: 412-396-4895
Fax: 412-369-5363
E-mail: safety@duq.edu
Website: ehs.duq.edu
Blackboard path: www.blackboard.duq.edu
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Another Reason for Being Safe

EH&S Coordinator, Vanessa Fowler, proudly welcomed her first child, Sophia Candace Fowler, on May 22! Sophie weighed 7 pounds and measured 21 inches.



Audrey Sweitzer, 3 years (left) and Sophia Fowler, 5 months (right) sporting the latest in eye protection. We already know their eyes are beautiful- that's why we protect them!



The good folks over at Dunder Mifflin on "The Office" have been kind enough to provide an example of what NOT to do in an emergency. Check it out at:

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/55744/the-office-a-lesson-on-fire>

Safety at Home: Trick or Treating

Nicole Rodrigues

Children and adults alike love Halloween but sometimes the excitement of the events surrounding the day can cause you to forget to take safety precautions and become careless. The following safety tips can help you make the most of this spooky time of year.

Children

To make Halloween safe and fun, make sure costumes and/or masks fit properly to avoid tripping, limb or sight obstruction. Costume makeup should always be tested prior to application to gauge whether the wearer could have an allergic reaction.

When trick-or-treating wear reflective clothing that can be easily seen by oncoming motorists. Using a flashlight and staying in a group on well-lit side-

walks increases safety and visibility. Trick-or-treating in strange areas can be confusing and dangerous; children should only go to homes where residents are known and have outside lights on as a sign of welcome. Children should always be accompanied by an adult or older child and never enter strange homes; make sure you know where your child will be and agree on a specific time to return home.

Adults

Adults like to have fun at Halloween parties and events too. If alcohol is involved, choose a designated driver or call a taxi to take you home. Driving while intoxicated or impaired is against the law and poses a very dangerous situation for you and everyone else on the road. All drivers should use extra caution when driving on and

around Halloween; be on the lookout for children and impaired drivers.

Make sure to always know where you are and who you are with; never leave drinks unattended. Most importantly, use common sense and choose not to be a part of risky situations.

Pets

Remember, even very friendly animals become scared and stressed. Avoid putting your pets and people in danger by keeping them away from strangers. Consider segregating your pet in a quiet area with plenty of fresh water and treats of their own- chocolate can be poisonous to animals and candy wrappers are hazardous if swallowed, so keep human treats out of your pet's reach.