TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

ISSUE 24
SPRING 2014

INSIDE:

SEEK SHELTER IN AN EMERGENCY

During an emergency, conditions may not allow for evacuation of the area and officials may instead advise taking immediate shelter. To keep people safe and out of harm's way, shelter-in-place is a short term strategy used in situations such as gas leaks, chemical spills, nuclear accidents, severe weather phenomenon, or violent acts. A shelter-in-place order, such as an active shooter situation, may be as simple as going inside and locking all doors and windows. In a hazardous materials release emergency, more actions may be necessary, such as sealing doors and turning off climate control units.

Chemical Emergency Awareness

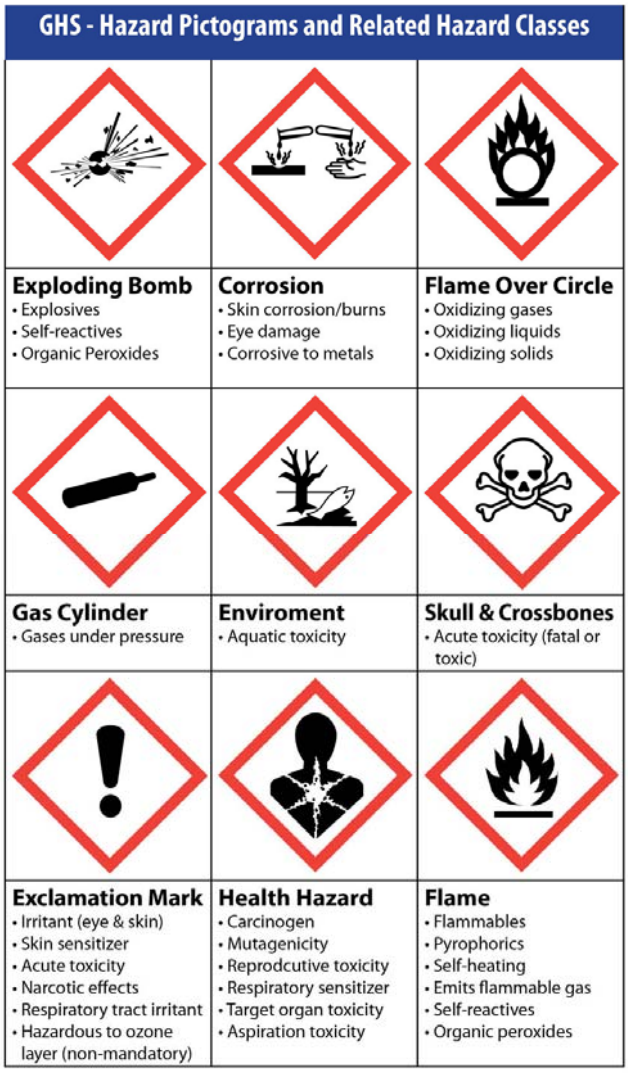
Events last year in West, Texas remind us of the importance of knowing what to do in a hazardous material release resulting in a shelter-in-place situation. In July 2009, the Bryan-College Station community experienced their own chemical fire at the El Dorado Chemical Company's fertilizer plant that caused evacuation of half of Brazos County.

If a shelter-in-place order is issued, go immediately indoors (or stay indoors) and find a small interior room, hallway, or basement. Avoid areas with glass and windows. During a hazardous materials release, turn off the ventilation system, close vents/inlets from the outside, and select a room that can be sealed with plastic sheeting, trash bags and duct tape, or wet cloths placed under doors and around windows. The room should have a supply of water and restroom access. Also, should you smell gas or chemical vapors, hold a wet cloth loosely over your nose and mouth and breathe through it as normally as possible. Take a radio or television into the room for further instructions or updates. Do not leave your secured location until an "All Clear" is issued. For more information, please visit: http://snipurl.com/28tjhhb.

Tornado Safety

Tornadoes are considered one of nature's most violent storms, can form in a matter of seconds, and can cause damage paths in excess of one mile. The devastating storms that ripped through Moore, Oklahoma last year are a vivid example of the power a tornado can unleash. If a "Tornado Warning" is issued, a tornado has either been sited or is indicated by weather radar. You should take shelter immediately or follow the instructions of the broadcasted warning. If possible, go to the basement or the lowest level of the building. Look for small interior rooms, such as bathrooms or closets, and avoid exterior walls, doors, and windows. Monitor local radio stations for an official "All Clear" notice, as well as for information on shelters and medical aid stations. To learn more about tornado safety or other emergency conditions go to: http://snipurl.com/28tjkfq.

GHS: GLOBALLY HARMONIZED SYSTEM



GHS refers to the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The GHS comprises standards for classifying chemicals, symbols for the hazards, labeling requirements and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements.

Throughout the world there are inconsistencies between various systems of chemical labeling and classification. Implementing GHS will harmonize the existing systems by establishing a unique procedure of identification for hazardous materials through pictograms and warning words and revising the required format of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS)/Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

GHS is not a substitution for Hazard Communication; it is an addition to the existing requirements.

The implementation of GHS will:

- Harmonize criteria for classifying substances and mixtures according to their health, physical, and environmental hazards.
- Standardize the pictograms/ symbols and signal words to include a red border with black symbols on a white background.
- Provide a hazard and precautionary statement that will be placed on the product label and SDS.

GHS will affect manufacturers, distributors, consumers, workers, transporters, and emergency responders.

Effective December 1st, 2013, employers must ensure that employees are trained and familiar with the new pictograms and signal words.

Effective June 1st 2015, all users must comply with all GHS regulation provisions.

Effective June 1st, 2016, all labs must update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication programs as needed, and provide training for newly identified physical or health hazards.

According to the Department of Transportation (DOT) the new GHS pictograms are not considered in conflict with DOT's regulated markings. GHS pictograms may be used in addition to, but not in place of, current DOT Hazardous Material Labels.

For more information contact EHS at 845-2132 or visit http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/ghs.html.

Image source: http://blog.weberpackaging.com/?p=1626

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The EHS Environmental group manages a Facebook page! Look for updates, news, and environmental tips at www.facebook.com/TheEnvironmentAtTAMU. Have an event or topic you would like to highlight? Let us know through Facebook or contact us at theenvironment@tamu.edu.

BAT SAFETY ON CAMPUS

As you likely know, the Texas A&M campus is home to a significant number of bats. As bats are considered high risk for rabies, remember to never attempt to touch, handle, or collect a bat. A few species commonly found in Texas are also considered endangered or threatened and thus should not be disturbed.

If you should come in contact with a bat on campus, find one dead or alive in a campus building, or see a live bat that cannot fly, call the Facilities Services Communications Center immediately at 979-845-4311.

Remember to close all windows and doors, especially in the evening, to help keep bats and other animals from entering buildings.

For more information about bats and rabies, please visit the Texas Department of State Health Services Infection Disease Control website at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/.

CAN I FLY WITH MY BATTERIES?

Whether a lithium battery can be carried by air or not depends on its configuration and either Watt-hour (Wh) rating for rechargeable or Lithium Content (LC) for non-rechargeable. Use the following table to determine if your battery is acceptable:

(Wh) or (LC)	Configuration	Carry-on Baggage	Checked Baggage	Operator Approval
≤100 Wh (2g)	In Equipment	Yes	Yes	No
	Spares	Yes (No Limit)	No	
>100 to ≤160 Wh	In Equipment	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Spares	Yes (Max 2)	No	
>160 Wh	Must be presented and carried as Cargo in accordance with the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations. Contact EHS Hazardous Materials Shipping to ensure your shipment is in compliance with the current regulations or if you need other shipping assistance: (979) 845-4889 or mgswood@tamu.edu.			

Source: IATA DG Trainings

The terminals of all spare batteries must be protected from short circuit by enclosing them in their original retail packaging, taping over the terminals, or using separate plastic bags for each battery. When placed in checked baggage, batteries contained in equipment such as laptops or cameras must be turned off and measures must be taken to ensure they cannot be accidentally activated.

Working Safely in the Field

Fieldwork is an important part of teaching and research at Texas A&M University, but it can expose participants to significant risks such as remote locations, extreme weather, hazardous terrain, harmful wildlife, or restricted access to emergency services. Faculty, staff, and students should be properly trained, equipped, and prepared to assess and minimize risk and provide aid to themselves and their colleagues in case of an emergency. Colleges and departments should ensure they have procedures in place for the health and safety of personnel involved in fieldwork. The TAMU Fieldwork Safety Manual provides guidelines to assist in preparing a fieldwork risk assessment in advance of fieldwork activities and a fieldwork safety plan that offers preventive measures for the associated risks. For more information about controlling risk associated with fieldwork, visit http://ehsd.tamu.edu and click on "Fieldwork Safety" in the "Libraries" section of the homepage.

Changes to the Emergency Preparedness Website

Check out the new and improved Emergency Preparedness Website! In addition to being more user friendly, find more information on training opportunities, and new links to videos such as "Run.Hide.Fight. Surviving an Active Shooter Event". You will also find a Frequently Asked Questions page, emergency procedures, and disaster guides including *Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic*, and links to Texas A&M's *Emergency Operations Plan*. For more information, visit http://www.tamu.edu/emergency.

WIN A PRIZE!

Can you count how many times the symbol appears in this newsletter? For a chance to win a prize, email your answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.

Would you prefer to receive the Safety Dispatch electronically? See the latest issue of the newsletter at http://ehsd.tamu.edu by using this QRC, or you may email us at safetydispatch@tamu.edu with your request.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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MS 4472
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Phone: 979.845.2132
Fax: 979.845.1348
Email: safetydispatch@tamu.edu
Website: http://ehsd.tamu.edu

EHS Training Schedule:

General Radiation Safety	4/21, 5/21, 6/18
Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness	4/17, 5/15, 6/19
Introduction to Laboratory Safety	5/5, 6/9

Please call 845-2132 to inquire about additional courses, training videos, or any of the following topics: Fire Extinguishers, Hazard Communication, Hearing Protection, Respiratory Protection, Laser Safety, Forklift Safety, Accident Investigation, Utility Cart Training, Asbestos Awareness.

SAFETY SOUND OFF

Congratulations to Louis Muniz, Joel James and Doug White for being chosen for this season's Safety Sound Off. They conduct weekly safety inspections in the Jack E. Brown building. A different group of graduate students accompanies them each time, where they demonstrate what to look for in the labs and explain why the findings are safety violations. This teaches the students safety concerns to be aware of in the labs where they work and how to work safely in the future. Thank you for your dedication to safety and teaching our students to be aware of their surroundings.

Know someone who applies good health and safety practices at TAMU? Send their name, work department, and reason why we should feature them in our next Safety Sound Off to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.

CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THE HIDDEN WORD AMONG THESE GHS PICTOGRAM TERMS?

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2. _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
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9. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ g _ _ _ b

SCAN US!

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Submit your answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu for a chance to win a prize.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many houses and apartments built before 1978 have paint that contains high levels of lead. Lead from paint, paint chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards if not taken care of properly. See http://www2.epa.gov/lead for more information.

The plastic used to make one toner cartridge contains about a half quart of oil.

EHS has direct email contacts for many of the specialized services provided. **See the list below:**

ehsd-iaq@tamu.edu—Indoor air quality concerns
ehsd-fumehood@tamu.edu—Fume hood questions
labsafety@tamu.edu—General lab safety questions
ehsd.occ.health@tamu.edu—Occupational health and respiratory protection
theenvironment@tamu.edu—Environmental concerns
ehsd@tamu.edu—All other inquiries

Each year, an average of 20,000 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with garage doors.

Enter to win a great SPRING prize!

It's springtime again!!

If April showers bring May flowers... in what year did College Station record its wettest April? Hint: 12.5 inches of rain fell that month.

Email your name and answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu, or drop it in campus mail to Safety Dispatch at MS 4472. We will draw for the winner in May.

Good luck!