

In this Issue:

- New Lab Chatter Newsletter!
- Fresh New EHS Lab Postings
- Lab Safety Committee Underway
- 2014 Safety Manual Update

And more...

New EHS Lab Chatter Newsletter!

Welcome back lab staff! In a constant effort to keep lab faculty and staff updated on Environmental Health and Safety efforts on both the Biddeford and Portland campuses, EHS will be sending out a new monthly newsletter about lab related items that we are working on.

In this newsletter you can find information on changes to rules, regulations, and policies

that affect the labs and their staff, students, and faculty.

The focus of this communication is to ensure everyone is on the same page when it comes to lab safety and environmental safety in the lab areas.

Please take the time to read through this newsletter every month to make sure you do not miss pertinent

information that may come out about lab areas and EHS concerns and changes.

The UNE EHS department is committed to giving you the most up-to-date information to keep you and the environment around you safe.



Contents:

New Lab Newsletter	1
New EHS Lab Postings	1
Lab Safety Sub-Committee	2
2014 Safety Manual	2
Fume Hoods	3
Safety Spotlight	3
Proper Lab Attire	4
UNE Chemical Sharing	4
Contact EHS	4

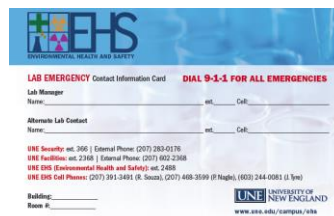
Fresh, New, EHS Lab Postings

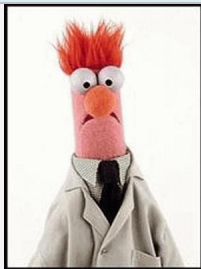
Some of you may have already noticed new postings and signage in the lab areas across both UNE campuses. Upon completing our laboratory inspections of all labs in the spring 2014 semester, we noticed a need for more communications and standardization of these communications.

We have introduced the following new communications but also have a few more to come on the horizon:

1. Lab Emergency Contact Cards (placed near the lab phone or a conspicuous location).
2. Lab Rules Posting (located on the front and back of each lab door).
3. Eyewash labels (decals placed on eyewash stations to remind staff to run and inspect eyewash weekly).
4. Fume Hood Labels (reminding staff and students to always check fume hoods before use).

All EHS lab communications are intended to aid lab staff and students in enhancing their safety culture and knowledge. If you have suggestions for future lab communications, contact EHS. (EHS contact information can be found on page 4).





*"Safety is not a
job; it's a way
of life."*

-Unknown

Lab Safety Sub-Committee Underway

During the 2013-2014 monthly University Wide Safety Committee meetings and routine EHS lab inspections, it became apparent that a new committee was needed that specifically focuses on lab safety issues. Out of this realization, the Lab Safety Sub-Committee was created.

The Lab Safety Sub-Committee is comprised of Chemical Hygiene Officers (CHOs) from the various UNE

colleges, volunteer lab staff members, and the EHS department.

This specialized committee started meeting in March 2014 and has continued to meet monthly to review several lab safety issues. This committee is also assisting in the formation of all the new lab postings you are seeing in the lab spaces.

This committee is focused on creating a safe and healthy environment in UNE laboratories, tackling issues on policies and procedures in the labs,

and coming up with consistent practices for all labs to adhere to.

If you have any input for this committee you may contact your college's Chemical Hygiene Officer or the EHS Department. Also, we are currently recruiting CHOs!! If you are interested in lab safety and would like to play an active role in safety in campus labs, please contact EHS. (Contact information can be found on page 4).

Note: This is a voluntary position and there is no additional compensation provided.

2014 Safety Manual Update

The UNE Safety Manual is updated annually and is made available to UNE employees in the UNE Docs folder on the public V-drive. The 2014 revisions have been made and the new version is now available.

The goal of the EHS Department is to have the UNE Safety Manual available on the EHS portion of the

UNE website. We are hoping to work with the appropriate departments to get this done as soon as possible to make the manual more accessible and user-friendly. We will send out an announcement in the UNE Community News and EHS Lab Chatter once this goal has been achieved.

In the meantime please feel free to

look up all safety policies on the V-Drive.

If you are looking for information regarding building evacuations and muster points, this information can be found on the Safety and Security section of the UNE website in the Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report.



Fume Hood Inspections and Operations

Fume hood safety and inspection is extremely important for all lab workers. Fume hoods protect employees and students from breathing harmful chemical and biological agents. If the fume hood is not functioning as designed or not being operated properly, there can be detrimental health effects to anyone in the

immediate lab area or building. Please make sure all staff/students have been properly trained in fume hood use, appropriate sash heights, and the reading of flow meters. EHS has each fume hood and biosafety cabinet certified by a vendor on an annual basis. EHS also does quarterly flow checks on all hoods and biosafety cabinets. Also, as a reminder, it is important to remember not to store your chemicals in the fume hood for long periods of time.

Safety Spotlight

Every month we will have a “**Safety Spotlight**” to highlight something that a particular lab or person is doing to enhance safety and health in their work area, or we will focus on a new safety regulation that has come out that is important for the lab staff to know about.

This month our Safety Spotlight will be on OSHA's new Hazard Communication Standard. You should be familiar with the new pictograms that will be printed on chemical manufacturer's packaging and on Safety Data Sheets (SDS), formerly known as MSDS. You will notice these pictograms along with signal words on chemical labels and communications very soon as part of OSHA's adoption of the Global Harmonization standard.

GLOBAL HARMONIZATION PICTOGRAMS:

		
Explosive	Gas Cylinder	Warning
		
Health Hazard	Fatal/High Risk	Environment
		
Flammable	Oxidizer	Corrosive

University of New
England
Environmental Health
and Safety (EHS)
11 Hills Beach Road
Biddeford, ME 04005

Fax
(207) 602-5911

Ronnie Souza,
Director of
Environmental Health
and Safety
UNE Extension: 2488
Cell: 207-391-3491
Email:
rsouza@une.edu

Peter Nagle,
Environmental Health
and Safety Specialist
UNE Extension: 2791
Cell: 207-468-3599
Email:
pnagle@une.edu

Jessica Tyre,
Environmental Health
and Safety Specialist
UNE Extension: 2046
Cell: 603-244-0081
Email: jtyre@une.edu

Alethea Cariddi,
Sustainability
Coordinator
UNE Extension: 2507
Email:
acariddi@une.edu

Reminder: Proper Lab Attire Rules

All labs across the UNE Campuses are required to follow the same lab attire guidelines (*with the exception of the Marine Science Center*). Please read these guidelines and ensure they are in place in your lab.

The following guidelines **must** be followed:

1. Closed shoes only (no sandals, high heels, or ballet flats). Feet need to be completely covered.
2. Long pants will be worn in all lab spaces (no shorts, no short skirts/dresses, and no capri/crop pants).
3. Gloves must be worn when: handling hazardous chemicals/biohazardous agents or research subjects (mice/rats/marine life, etc.) or as required by an SDS.
4. Safety Glasses must be worn when: handling hazardous chemicals/biohazardous agents, when a splash hazard exists, or when required by the SDS.
5. Lab coats must be worn when: there is a risk of contamination to clothing or a splash hazard exists.
6. Lab coats must be laundered regularly by a contracted outside vendor only.

UNE Chemical Sharing Listing

The UNE Chemical Sharing Program is a great way to reduce hazardous waste, reduce costs for your department, and have a positive environmental impact on campus.

If you have any commonly used lab chemicals you are thinking of disposing of, please contact EHS so they can be listed in the next issues of EHS Lab Chatter as available for the UNE Chemical Sharing Program.

Chemicals currently available: