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ESH&A Newsletter - December 2016



ESH&A Newsletter Survey Questions

[We Need Your Feedback!](#)

The ESH&A Newsletter has been published each month now for a year, and we need to know what you think so we can continue to improve. Please take a minute to complete the [short survey](#). Thanks, Sean.



Lessons Learned: Nitric Acid

Nitric acid waste has been involved in several incidents at Universities, [Texas Tech University](#), [University of Delaware](#), [University of Washington](#) and [Washington University](#) to name a few.

Recently, at Iowa State University waste nitric acid was added to a bottle and capped tightly. The nitric acid reacted with organic waste in the bottle it created pressure, causing the bottle to burst and destroy the secondary containment, as well as three other waste bottles. [Luckily there were no injuries!](#)

Things to keep in mind if you use nitric acid:

1. Make sure your lab personnel know how to use and dispose of nitric acid safely.

- a. Always segregate nitric acid from organic wastes. Not sure what needs to be segregated? [Contact us.](#)
- b. Do not reuse solvent bottles to collect waste nitric acid. [or]
- c. Ensure empty solvent bottles have been properly rinsed before use as waste containers for nitric acid.
- d. Make sure all chemical waste is cool and/or reactions are completed before closing waste containers.

2. Review with your personnel emergency procedures in the event of a [spill/accident.](#)

- a. Your safety is the most important thing, so tend to yourself and/or co-workers first!
- b. Spill control materials can be found in the First Aid closets of Metals,

Spedding and Wilhelm, or in G34 TASF.

- c. Call for help: 911 for emergencies, (515)294-3483 for non-emergencies that require assistance.



Photo courtesy of Washington University



Resolving Environmental, Safety & Health (ESH) Concerns

To ensure your welfare and productivity, Ames Laboratory has several mechanisms for employees, or anyone who comes into contact with the Laboratory, to report issues potentially affecting the safety of workers, visitors, neighbors or the environment without fear of retaliation or reprisal.

Here is a list of the options you have for resolving an ESH concern:

- If possible, resolve the ESH concern yourself.
- If you are unable to resolve the concern yourself, refer the concern to your supervisor and management chain.
- You may also consult your Safety Representative or Safety Coordinator, a member of the Safety Review Committee, or contact an ESH&A staff member directly for any ESH concerns you may have.
- If you would like to remain anonymous or if you feel that it is more appropriate, use [Ames Laboratory Employee Concerns Form](#) and send it to G40 TASF.
- If one or more of the above steps have not resulted in resolution of the

concern, or if you feel that it is more appropriate, you may also use the formal DOE Employee Concerns Management System hotline at 800-676-3267.

- Or use this link to the form for the [DOE's Differing Professional Opinion \(DPO\) process](#) also found in DOE Order 442.2, or by calling or emailing the DOE DPO Manager, [Scott Davis](#), at 301-903-964



The DOE DPO process ensures that all employees and contractor employees have the right to report environment, safety, and health technical concerns that have not been resolved through routine work processes.

December's

Safetyhero

This month's Safety Hero is the incredible group of undergraduate students who assisted in the completion of a comprehensive Lab-wide chemical inventory.

The Inventory Team demonstrated dedication, innovation, and significant drive in completing their duties. They completed their task ahead of schedule and under budget and helped establish a chemical inventory system that ensures Ames Laboratory and ISU employees work in a safe and compliant

environment today and into the future.



**Thank you Romon, Ethan, Mandy, Zach, and Carley
for your hard work on this project.**



LEARN@ISU

Documentation and Dissemination of Research Training

The Training Department in conjunction with the Office of Sponsored Research and Records Management has updated Lab Notebook training. This updated training now called Documentation and Dissemination of Research, walks newly hired Ames Laboratory researchers through the process of maintaining a laboratory notebook as well as introduces DOE expectations for disclosure, writing acknowledgments, and intellectual property.

We invite anyone who is interested to a review of this training on
Monday, December 12 beginning at 11:00am.

During this time you will have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions prior to course roll-out in January 2017.

If you are interested in attending please RSVP to [Hiliary Burns](#) or call the Training Office at 4-9972.

December's Fun Fact: Did you know that in the Intellectual Property world a subject invention is any invention conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work? This means that even if you think you just "have an idea", Ames Laboratory encourages you to disclose.

January 9-13 is Learn@ISU Launch Week!

In October 2015 the Ames Laboratory Training Department reached out for feedback on how we could improve your training experience. We have listened!

We are thrilled to announce that beginning **January 9, 2017 all Ames Laboratory training courses will be accessed using **Learn@ISU**.**

Life is complicated so we have made this transition easy for you. Beginning January 9:

1. **Delete your Cyber Train bookmark and [replace with the new](#)**
2. **Log-in to Learn@ISU using your Iowa State University Net ID and password**
3. **Check your training requirements**
4. **Complete your training**

And join us for Launch Week!

Stop in to the Training Department (TASF 105), *enjoy some treats, and learn more.* Molly and Hiliary will be available for one-on-one help sessions.

For more launch tips and information visit the [Training Program](#)



18 Slots remain in the ISU Human Sciences Extension Wellbeing Program:

“What About Me? My Wellbeing.”

The sessions will be held at
12:00pm each Thursday in January 2017,
and each session is 45 minutes long.

They include some information sharing, hands on activity, action planning (goal setting), and sharing of resources.
Participants [need to commit to attending all 4 sessions.](#)

Please [RSVP or e-mail](#) for more details.

RECALL - Kidde Smoke/CO Alarms

Kidde is announcing the recall of a specific combination smoke/carbon monoxide detector. When the alarm reaches the end of its useful life, it issues an end of life chirp every thirty seconds.

If the battery is replaced when the unit is at its end of life, and the test button is pressed within 10 seconds thereafter, the unit will no longer issue an end of life chirp and will no longer detect smoke or carbon monoxide.

Determine if you have affected alarms, and see full recall announcement by clicking on the image of the detector.





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