University of Illinois
F. Seitz Materials Research Lab (MRL)

February 2018

Important Dates and Reminders

February:

AED Training Sessions

- This training is for those **who signed up** by Jan. 25th – MRL staff and MRL safety contacts ONLY
- Session One: February 28, 2018 11am-12pm in 190ESB
- Session Two: February 28, 2018 1pm-2pm in 190ESB

March:

MRL safety contacts pre - DRS audit meeting

- March 7, 2018 at 2pm in 190ESB

April:

DRS lab safety audits are expected to begin the first week of April

Safety Newsletter

This month's topics are sharp disposal and laboratory glassware waste disposal. We continue to see problems with sharps disposal and glassware disposal during our annual DRS audit. It is important that all staff and researchers are properly trained and dispose of their sharps and glass correctly.

Sharps Disposal

As described on the DRS webpage, "Materials that qualify as "sharps" are defined at the state level and shall be disposed of as Potentially Infectious Medical Waste (PIMW)." OSHA defines contaminated as the presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

All sharps should be disposed of in a sharps disposal container (SDC). These are provided free of charge to university personnel. The SDC's come in three different sizes, 1-quart, 2-gallon, or 8-gallon. To make a request for new SDC's, please contact the campus stores at 217-244-0139 or by email, cstores@illinois.edu. When putting in your request please include the quantity and size of SDC's and where they need to be delivered.

Below is a chart that list out the **proper** and **improper** use of a sharps disposal container:

ALWAYS dispose in the SDC	**NEVER dispose in the SDC**
Any medical needles	Plastic items (except for syringes)
Syringe barrels (with or without needles)	Beverage containers (no pop cans!)
Pasteur pipettes (glass pipettes)	Non-biologically contaminated laboratory glassware
Scalpel and razor blades	Solvent/Chemical bottles
Blood vials	Light bulbs
Microscope slides and coverslips	Any paper materials
Glassware contaminated with infectious agents	Silicon wafers
	Plastic pipettes and pipette tips
	Aerosol cans or can of any type
	Scintillation vials
	Any item with liquid (except for blood in vacutainers)

An item that can cause confusion, is broken glass. Broken glassware is not necessarily considered a sharp. If the broken glass is **not** biologically, chemically, or radiologically contaminated, it can be disposed of in the glass disposal box.

When your sharps disposal container is full, you must requests for sharps and biowaste disposal through the DRS waste system. Instructions on how to complete one of these requests can be found here.

Useful Contacts

MRL Safety Committee
safety@mrl.illinois.edu

MRL Safety Engineer
Maisie Kingren
mlswans2@illinois.edu
217-244-8637

Division of Research Safety
drs@illinois.edu
217-333-2755
www.drs.illinois.edu

Safety and Compliance
fsserviceoffice@illinois.edu
217-333-0340
www.fs.illinois.edu/services/safety-and-compliance

Laboratory Glassware Waste Disposal

The laboratory glassware disposal boxes are for glassware (intact or broken) that is **NOT** contaminated with biological, chemical, or radioactive materials. The glassware isn't a sharp, is free of all liquids/solids, has no emanating odor, and is packaged properly.

Acceptable to dispose in glass disposal box when NOT contaminated	NEVER dispose in glass disposal box
Glass flasks/beakers/bottles NOT contaminated	Biologically, chemically, or radiologically contaminated
Small glass containers/ ampoules, test tubes, vials NOT contaminated	Microscope slides and cover slips
Thin-layer chromatography	Syringes
Watch glasses	Liquids
	Pasteur Pipettes (glass)
	Thermometers

There are laboratory glass disposal boxes available in the MRL storeroom for your convenience. When packaging non-contaminated laboratory glassware, it must be placed in a sturdy cardboard box that is lined with a plastic bag. For the plastic bag, DO NOT use a bag that has the biohazard or radiation hazard symbol. When filling the box, do not fill it all the way to the top and it should not weigh more than 40 pounds. You must deface all original labels on reused cardboard boxes and relabel it as "CLEAN/BROKEN Lab Glass – Trash". Once the box is labeled and full, you must securely seal the box with tape. Preferably a packing tape or duct tape. After it is sealed, it can be placed in the trash or directly into a dumpster. Again, this is for CLEAN/NOT CONTAMINATED glassware.

Here is a quick rundown from the DRS webpage for what to do with contaminated laboratory glassware:

- **Biologically** contaminated glassware is disposed of in the Sharps Disposal Containers (SDC), as we have previously discussed.
- **Chemically** contaminated glassware should be discarded through the DRS waste disposal program.
- **Radiologically** contaminated glassware is discarded through DRS by placing the contaminated glassware in a sturdy cardboard box lined with a plastic bag, securely seal the box with tape, label the box "Broken Glass" and put a radioactive symbol sticker on the box. Once you have completed those steps you must complete a radioactive waste pick up request.
    - The u of I radiation Safety Section email is rss@illinois.edu if you have any further questions for radiologically contaminated items.