The CCS has released the draft of the guide on: “Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories.”

Before 2008 the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, also known as the Chemical Safety Board (CSB), was concerned about reports of significant incidents in academic laboratories. The CSB indicated this concern would likely lead to an investigation of a future serious incident in an academic laboratory. In January 2010, a chemistry graduate student at Texas Tech University was seriously injured in an explosion. The CSB investigated this incident and issued its report in October 2011. The CSB noted: “The lessons learned from the incident provide all academic communities with an important opportunity to compare their own policies and practices to that which existed at Texas Tech leading up to the incident.” The CSB report noted several factors contributed to the incident, including “comprehensive guidance on managing the hazards unique to laboratory chemical research in the academic environment is lacking. Current standards on hazard evaluations, risk assessments, and hazard mitigation are geared toward industrial settings and are not transferrable to the academic research laboratory environment.” The CSB asked the American Chemical Society (ACS) for assistance with developing guidance that would address this gap. The ACS accepted the CSB recommendation to: “develop good practice guidance that identifies and describes methodologies to assess and control hazards that can be used successfully in a research laboratory.” The ACS assigned the responsibility for this task to the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS). The CCS, in close coordination with the Division of Chemical Health and Safety, commissioned a task force of stakeholders and subject matter experts to create a guide for identifying and evaluating hazards, and managing the associated risks of these hazards in research laboratories.

(Continued on page 2)
Several factors were considered during the development of this guide, as follows:

- To aid researchers in recognizing the value of input from others with varying experiences.
- To provide techniques that can be used for a variety of different types of activities (routine protocols, modifications to current research, or entirely new activities).
- To allow for the variable nature of research tasks by providing tools that help researchers recognize and respond to change—both large and small.
- To provide techniques to ensure hazard information is gathered and analyzed.

This guide was developed for researchers without deference to where they are in their careers—undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, instructors, principal investigators (PIs), technicians, or department chairs—who have varied approaches to learning and experimental design and who may require different kinds of assessment tools.

Check out the full guide here:
http://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/about/governance/committees/chemicalsafety/identifying-and-evaluating-hazards-in-research-laboratories-draft.pdf

Risky Business

Last week, during “Risky Business – Risk Management Week” the University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA) aimed to build awareness of how risk management processes and risk management professionals provide innovative, effective solutions to the challenges facing institutions of higher education, as they pursue their academic, economic, and social goals. The week of November 4, 2013 was URMIA’s second annual recognition celebration, which included a variety of offerings, resources, and activities, all for spreading the word about risk. Live webinars covering such hot topics as Student Life, Student Affairs, and Greek Life; Fleet Management and Transportation Risk; International Programs; Cyber and Intellectual Property Risk; and Clery Act and Title IX, were also hosted.

In support of URMIA’s efforts several key departments were invited by OHIO’s Risk Management to participate in broadcasts that focused on their direct areas of responsibility. Departments were forwarded links for the webinars, found via URMIA’s website. For those participants who missed their broadcasts information about accessing the recorded sessions was provided to them.

Because OHIO recognizes Risky Business Week as, in turn supporting and coinciding with its ongoing, year-round Risk Management initiatives, helping to foster a culture of risk management, forward thinking, safety, and overall better protection of students and individuals served by the university the link below is posted on the Risk Management website and provided here, for others who may be interested in viewing the recorded webinars:

Check out any webinars you might have missed here.
http://my.urmia.org/URMIA/Events/RMWeek/.
Asian stink bugs invade Ohio homes

Fall-cool air sends stink bugs looking for warmth

By: Dave Arnold, newsnet5.com

SOUTH RUSSELL, Ohio - First collected in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1998, the Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) was named an invasive species by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC) after being discovered thriving outside of its native habitat. Normally found in its native range of Taiwan, Korea, Japan and China, the brown-colored stink bug has been making Pennsylvania, Ohio and many other states its new home. Experts believe the Asian species found its way to the United States much earlier than 1998, most likely by seafaring ships. Case Western Reserve associate professor Mark Willis said he and his colleagues have collected many of the Asian stink bugs, but they aren't much different than those that have always been native to Ohio.

"There is a group within this big collection of insects called stink bugs. There are a lot of other closely related insects that also have defensive glands that are also very willing and able to smell bad when they get threatened," Willis said.

More annoying in the fall through spring months, the bugs seek warmth and safety from predators in homes, wooded areas and anywhere out of cold elements.

Facts on Asian-native stink bugs from the NISC:
1.) Emerge in spring, deposit eggs in summer.
2.) Feeds on wide variety of host plants, ornamental and food-bearing. Fruits attacked include apples, peaches, figs, mulberries, citrus fruits and persimmons.
3.) An agricultural pest in Pennsylvania.
4.) Are not harmful to humans.
5.) The stink bug will not reproduce inside structures or cause damages.
6.) Typically, stink bugs will emerge from under cracks, under or behind baseboards, around window and door trim, and around exhaust fans, or light fixtures in ceilings.
7.) Prevent invasions by sealing openings with caulk, or other suitable materials to prevent the insects from crawling out.
8.) Sweep up dead bugs instead of vacuum. The vacuum may acquire the smell of stink bugs for a period of time.

For more information go to:
http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/brown-marmorated-stink-bug
Test Your Fire Safety Savvy

Knowing about fire safety and prevention is real lifesaving information, so take this short quiz to test your knowledge.

1. Where should you install smoke alarms?
   a. On every level of your home
   b. Inside bedrooms
   c. Outside sleeping areas
   d. All of the above

2. How far away should flammable items—such as curtains or blankets—be kept from a space heater?
   a. 3 feet
   b. 20 feet
   c. 6 feet

3. How often should you test your smoke alarm?
   a. Once a year
   b. Once a month
   c. They’re so technologically advanced, you don’t have to test them

4. If your clothes catch on fire, you should...
   a. Stop, drop and roll
   b. Run
   c. Take the clothing off

5. How often should you replace your smoke alarm (not just the batteries)?
   a. Every year
   b. Every five years
   c. Every 10 years

6. What is the primary cause of residential fires?
   a. Electrical problems
   b. Cooking
   c. Playing with matches

Answers on page 6

0-2: Don’t worry, we won’t tell. The good news is that we can give you loads of fire safety information, and you’ll be an expert before you know it.

3-5: You’re on your way...Go to our Fire Safety Guide and study up for next time!

All 6: If we were there, we’d give you a pat on the back. Feed your brain with other safety information here.
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator/CEO Steve Buehrer last month announced several individuals were convicted of, or pleaded guilty to, charges related to defrauding Ohio's Workers' Compensation system in August 2013. The court actions were the result of investigations conducted by BWC’s Special Investigations Department (SID). The SID works to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute Workers Compensation fraud.

"Investigating and putting a stop fraud helps protect the benefits of injured workers and keep employers’ premiums down," said Buehrer. “Those who break the rules are interfering with our ability to serve Ohio’s employers and truly injured workers.”

The following is a sampling of the cases that resulted in a guilty plea or conviction during August:

Angel Ocasio (Cleveland, Cuyahoga County) pleaded guilty Aug. 14 to one count of Workers’ Compensation fraud for working while receiving benefits. In July 2010 SID received an anonymous allegation indicating Ocasio operated his own car repair and tow company while receiving BWC benefits. Investigators found Ocasio returned to work as a self-employed tow truck driver and auto mechanic from May 2010 through October 2011 while receiving temporary total disability benefits. Ocasio was sentenced to nine months in prison, suspended for two years of community control. As a condition of community control, he must repay BWC $15,679.

Randy Bartosh (Coraopolis, Pennsylvania) pleaded guilty Aug. 15 in Franklin County to one count of Workers’ Compensation fraud and one count of theft for working while receiving benefits. SID began investigating the former Columbiana (Columbiana/Mahoning Counties) man after a confidential source contacted the fraud hotline advising he was engaging physical activity inconsistent with his complaints to doctors in his Workers’ Compensation claim. Investigators conducted internet searches, undercover operations and obtained bank records discovering that Bartosh owned a tattoo shop called 213’s Tattoo U in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania while receiving temporary total disability benefits. Bartosh tattooed customers, and managed business and marketing operations. The Ohio Industrial Commission found Bartosh was overpaid and ordered him to return $4,541.70, which has since been repaid to BWC. A judge ordered him to pay a $100 fine.

Bob Morgan (Holland, Lucas County) pleaded guilty to one count of Workers’ Compensation fraud Aug. 6 for working while receiving benefits. SID received information that Morgan was a martial arts instructor, and had been teaching mixed martial arts at Donnellys USA Martial Arts in Holland and American Kenpo in Toledo. There were instructional videos and a news cast showing Morgan engaged in physical martial arts instruction while collecting disability for a neck and low back injury from September 2008 to July 2009. In a statement to the court, Morgan admitted that he committed fraud. He was sentenced to a suspended six month term incarceration at the Correctional Center of Northwest Ohio, and 30 days of electronic monitoring. As part of his probation, he was ordered to complete 100 hours of community service, to seek and maintain gainful verifiable employment, and to pay restitution in the amount of $3,157.70. Morgan paid $300 toward his debt after sentencing.

To report suspected Workers' Compensation fraud-
call: 1-800-OHIOBWC
visit: ohiobwc.com
or
visit: www.facebook.com/ohiobwc

Larry Wines, Workers’ Compensation Manager

Telephone: (740) 597-1993
Email: wines@ohio.edu

If you have any questions about Workers’ Compensation, contact Larry Wines.
From the AVP’s Desk (continued from page 1)

They represent best practices and proven methods to reduce incidents. As a supervisor we encourage you to look for situations where these Safety Guidelines could help you. You should then talk to your chain of command and have this issue brought to RMS’ attention. We will, as appropriate, investigate the situation and discuss the recommendations with you. We can then develop Safety Guidelines respectively.

This is not a new program, but a more formal way RMS can continue to support faculty, staff, supervisors and key management at OHIO. Please allow us to help you make your job a little easier.

There have been 7 Safety Guidelines published to date these are:

1. Candles for Special Events
2. Fire Alarm Systems
3. Cell Phones Use in University Vehicles
4. Transporting Sick and/or Injured Employees
5. not published
6. Outdoor Lighting
7. not published
8. Crosswalk Marking

As additional Safety Guidelines are developed they will be published and also posted to the RMS web page at http://www.ohio.edu/ehs.

Joe Adams
AVP Risk Management & Safety

Joe Adams
Associate Vice President Risk Management and Safety

Brent Auker
Fire Protection Engineer

Crystal Brooks
Radiation Safety Technician

Jeff Campbell
Director, EHS
Occupational Safety Officer

Cathie Chancellor
Risk Manager

Marty Dagostino
Professional Ergonomist

Kristi Giordano
Laboratory Safety and Compliance Technician

Cliff Hamilton
Environmental Engineer

Jill Harris
Emergency Programs Manager

Susan Hopkins
Administrative Coordinator

Chad Keller
Environmental Health Coordinator

Marilyn McVey
Workers’ Compensation Administrative Coordinator

Douglas Miller
Fire Safety Coordinator

Nathan Rath
Environmental Safety Coordinator

David Schleter
Lab Safety Coordinator

Alan Watts
Radiation Safety Officer

Larry Wines
Workers’ Compensation Manager

Risk Management and Safety Department
142 University Service Center
49 Factory Street
Athens, Ohio 45701
Tel: (740) 593-1666

Quiz Answers: 1. d; 2. a.; 3. b.; 4. a.; 5. c.; 6. b