TBR – Environmental Health & Safety

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **How do you handle faculty noncompliance?** Support from upper administration is essential. One way to approach this is to e-mail the noncompliance issue to the responsible individual, copying supervision (i.e. chairs) and upper administration. Mention in the report that a follow-up inspection will occur within 45 days to insure corrective actions have been taken. Another approach is to share real world examples, with those in the e-mail, identifying the possible liability concerns for the institution as well as the faculty. A good example from a lab safety perspective is what happened at UCLA (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALBWxGik64A)

2. **How do you handle complaints from faculty, staff, and students regarding indoor air quality?** ETSU has the following protocol posted at http://healthsafety.etsu.edu/docs/general/Indoor_Air_Quality.pdf . Anyone is welcome to use this document and make it their own. Request the electronic version by contacting obriendj@etsu.edu.

3. **Are laboratory hygiene plans required?** Yes. All labs must have a plan specific to the hazards, both physical and chemical, present in the lab. The plan must be updated annually and all lab personnel must be trained annually (read and sign-off on the plan). ETSU's plan is available at http://healthsafety.etsu.edu/docs/lab/Chemical_Hygiene_Plan.pdf. Request the electronic version by contacting obriendj@etsu.edu.

4. **Do chemical fume hoods require testing?** Yes. Annual testing is required. Some universities test in-house. ETSU has the following protocol: http://healthsafety.etsu.edu/docs/lab/Chemical_Fume_Hoods.pdf Vendors like Southeastern Certification, Inc. can be contracted with to meet this requirement.

5. **Are EPA ID#s site specific?** No. They are generator specific for that particular site (i.e. With leased properties, you may have multiple ID#s for multiple generators at the same site location).

6. **What type of emergency notification systems are TBR institutions utilizing?** MTSU and ETSU utilize a statewide contract for emergency text messaging through Rave Mobile Safety (http://www.ravemobilesafety.com/). Other systems being utilized:
   a. Alertus (http://www.alertus.com/) - This system takes over all network computers, displaying the emergency message on the monitor.
   b. PA systems utilizing building fire alarm system infrastructure.
   c. Outdoor warning sirens

7. **Who should be contacted for hazardous waste clean-up response (i.e. a large diesel spill)?** ENSAFE (http://www.ensafe.com/). The new TBR contract with ENSAFE can provide this kind of support.

8. **As part of the new environmental services contract, will ENSAFE maintain the TNFITTS website?** Yes. TBR has contracted with ENSAFE to continue to maintain the TNFITTS (https://tnfitts.com/) database.

9. **How are institutions monitoring chemical procurements in order to maintain chemical inventories, keep MSDS databases current, identify potential safety issues, identify waste disposal requirements, etc.?** Institutions are utilizing procurement software to assist. ETSU utilizes software from SciQuest (www.sciquest.com/). All hazardous chemicals must be reviewed and approved online by EH&S prior to procurement. Once a system like this is implemented, the institution must take it one step further and restrict chemical purchases with the institution's credit cards. For more information on SciQuest contact obriendj@etsu.edu .