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RADIATION SAFETY NEWS NOTES

Radiation Safety Refresher Training

All radiation workers, their supervisors and principal investigators approved to use radioactive materials are required to have annual radiation safety refresher training. This training is available online February through August. The ORCBS sends e-mail reminders to persons who are due for required training.

Labeling Review

Let's review the basics of labeling, since problems in this area have been observed during lab surveys.

First, **all rooms where radioactive materials are used, stored or disposed must have the label that has the words "Caution Radioactive Material" and the trefoil**, indicating that radioactive items may be used or stored in that room. The radiation safety staff usually puts these signs in place on the doors of these rooms.

Inside the lab, **work areas and equipment where radioactive materials are used or stored must be labeled**. Again, the correct label has the words "Caution Radioactive Material" with the trefoil. This shows where radioactivity is used, stored and disposed inside the lab. Bench tops, hoods, equipment, refrigerators and/or freezers and waste areas are examples of areas that would need to be labeled. The PI and laboratory workers decide where the work with and storage of radioactive materials will be in the lab.

Samples, stock solutions, temporary waste containers, containers holding samples and all contamination must have a label with the words "Caution Radioactive Material" and the trefoil and the name of the isotope, the activity in DPM or μCi and the date the material or contamination was labeled. Items too small to be labeled can be placed in a labeled container. Temporary containers, such as test tube racks, ice buckets and temporary waste containers must be labeled this way.

Contamination may be removable, non-removable or constantly present. **All contamination must have a label with the words "Caution Radioactive Material", the trefoil, the name of the isotope, the activity in DPM or μCi and the date the contamination was labeled.** Contamination may be on a work surface or equipment, and may be long term, short term or continually contaminated. Of course, decontamination of any surface or equipment must be attempted to remove as much of the contamination as possible before labeling.

And always, contact a member of the radiation safety staff if you have any questions about labeling, decontamination or any part of radiation safety. We are here to help you.