

# RADIATION SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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## Missing Surveys

We are noticing an increased number of laboratories that are missing surveys during periods of active radioisotope use. Many surveys are also missing critical areas that must be checked for contamination, such as the floor around the work areas and waste areas and equipment used during experiments.

A survey must be done every month that radioactive material is used, as well as any week during which 200 microcuries or more of any radioisotope is used or handled.

Your work area must be monitored following the use of RAM, and include the floor, your shoes and equipment.

## Contamination Events

A result of missing and/or incomplete surveys has been an increase in the number of contamination events. In the past nine months there have been three major events involving contamination being spread outside the work area, including hallways, offices, conference rooms, elevator carpets, janitors' mops, more than a dozen pairs of shoes, and in one case, a car belonging to a radiation worker. Many more cars and homes were surveyed for contamination.

Properly surveying in a timely manner and following established protocols for handling radioactive materials could have prevented all of these releases outside the work areas.

## Lab closeouts and relocation

Please tell us as soon as possible if your lab is moving to a new location or if you are planning to discontinue the use of RAM. We will arrange to pick up all of your radioactive materials and waste, and then schedule a final closeout survey to assure there is no radioactive contamination. This is an extensive and thorough survey to check all the surfaces, drawers and floors and may take several hours.

If you will be moving into the Bio-Physical Sciences Building, start now by planning what you will take and what can be discarded as waste. Help us by having waste pickups well ahead of your scheduled move.

Remember, all equipment with a radioactive material warning label must be surveyed and released by the ORCBS prior to moving. We will move your radioactive sources and materials at the appropriate time.

## Refresher Training

All MSU workers and PIs who use RAM must take radiation safety refresher training each year. **This training is available on the ORCBS web site and will be accessible only until August 15, 2001.** After this, you will need to come to a radiation safety training class at the ORCBS Training Center.