

RADIATION SAFETY NEWS NOTES

Radiation Safety Refresher Training

The due date for taking the online radiation safety refresher training is July 31, 2005. If you haven't already completed this training, you should have received an e-mail from our office reminding you of this requirement.

If you no longer need radiation safety training please contact our office and we will update the database to reflect this change.

After mid-August, any worker, supervisor or PI requiring radiation safety refresher training will have to enroll in and complete initial radiation safety training at the ORCBS Training Center.

Survey Meter Calibrations

Every year the ORCBS calibrates the radiation survey meters in labs on campus. We usually find a significant number of these meters with some kind of operating problem requiring repair. These problems range from bad cords to broken windows to missing or inoperable knobs. Many of these problems can be easily repaired by replacing the cord or window. Other problems can often be repaired by the Biochemistry Instrument Shop or by returning the instrument to the manufacturer.

If your meter will not be used for a period of time greater than one month, remove the batteries from the meter. The batteries can corrode and leak, and expensive repairs may be required.

Before each use of your survey meter check that the batteries are fully charged and that the instrument is responding properly to radiation. Just because your meter is making "clicking" sounds does not mean it is working correctly! Call our office if you have any questions or problems with your meter.

Also, notice that some of your efficiencies may vary from previous years. We purchased new calibration sets and this changed the efficiency for some isotopes. Please be sure to use the correct efficiency for your surveys.

Security of Radioactive Materials Requires Constant Vigilance

All radioactive materials must be secured to prevent tampering or removal by unauthorized persons. This means that one of the following must be in place at all times: 1) laboratory doors must be locked, 2) material inside the laboratory must be locked, including the waste containers, or 3) a knowledgeable person must be present who can see anyone entering the laboratory and request identification or purpose of visit.