

# RADIATION SAFETY NEWS NOTES

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## Radiation Safety Refresher Training

**If you have not taken the online radiation safety refresher training, now is the time to complete it.** This training will be available only through August. Since annual refresher training is an NRC requirement, we must identify workers who are not in compliance and give them the opportunity to complete an annual training or to no longer use radioactive materials. Reminders via e-mail are sent to workers needing training if they supplied the ORCBS with an e-mail address. Principal investigators will also receive e-mail reminders for their workers who have not completed the refresher training.

All radiation workers, their supervisors and principal investigators approved to use radioactive materials in their laboratories are required to have radiation safety refresher training each year. *This training is available online from mid-February through August.*

## Common Survey Problems

**Labeling** is often incomplete or missing. Radioactive materials, contaminated equipment and temporary bench top waste containers must be labeled with tape with the trefoil and have the isotope, activity in DPM or  $\mu\text{Ci}$ , and the date clearly visible. Items too small to be labeled may be placed in a larger container with the proper labeling.

**Frequency of surveys** is another area of confusion. Areas must be surveyed each month that radioactive materials are used, and each week that 200  $\mu\text{Ci}$  or more of any radioactive material is handled. Handled refers to opening a container of radioactive material of 200  $\mu\text{Ci}$  or more, even if not all of it is used. This survey is documented and kept with your survey records.

Monitoring yourself and work areas during and after each use of radioactive material do not need to be documented. However, monitoring is critical to finding and cleaning or labeling any contamination before it becomes widespread. *Remember to always check the floor and yourself after using radioactive material.*

## Worker Training Reports

Worker training reports are not included with this inventory. Instead, all PIs on campus will receive these reports in the near future. This will allow the ORCBS to correct and update all workers' trainings, identify workers who may be deficient in some training, and remove any persons from our database who are no longer with MSU.

Please thoroughly examine the report when it arrives, make appropriate corrections and return it promptly to the ORCBS.