

# OSU Wooster Campus Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

**EHS Newsletter:** Newsletter topics include: OSHA, Tornado Safety, July 4<sup>th</sup> Safety, Chemical Hazardous Waste, Upcoming Safety Training.

## **OSH Act, OSHA, NIOSH, PERRP: Who are you and why should I care?**

Acronyms freely thrown around by safety officers are mostly a mystery to the average employee; I hear employees say "I have to do this because EHS said so", but that is not the whole truth. Yes, environmental health and safety requires trainings, personal protective equipment, etc., but why? It all starts with congressional legislation (laws) that govern health and safety: The Occupational Safety and Health Act (1970), which is concerned with worker safety, requires the employer to provide and ensure work and workplace safety. The goal is to ensure workers are protected from "recognized hazards" i.e. excessive noise levels, heat and cold stress, chemical exposures, and unsanitary conditions, etc. To establish these standards for workplace health and safety, the Act also created the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) within the Public Health Service. The purpose of NIOSH is to provide research support in this area; that's why NIOSH funds many grants in the public health sector. Of course, after Congress passes the legislative acts they needed to create someone to enforce it, hence, The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) of the U.S. Department of Labor, who oversee and enforce federal standards, run the OSHA Training Institute in Des Plaines, Illinois, and assists regional training centers (like in Ohio). Note these Acts do not address environmental issues (e. g. Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, Pollution Prevention Act, etc.) but only health and safety of employees. The State of Ohio has adopted and endorsed ALL the federal codes and regulations of OSHA and is operated under the title of Public Employee Risk Reduction Program (PERRP); so, to make a long story short...it is important to complete health and safety training, because it is your *right* to be protected, as well as, the obligation of OSU to comply with the law.

## **Look Toto we're not in Kansas anymore!**

If you have paid attention to the news you realize we are in tornado season, yes, there is a season, not that it can't happen at any time of the year in any place in the world, but during this time of year the likelihood of a tornado is much more probable due to atmospheric conditions. To learn important safety procedures and know what to do when a tornado warning is published, go to: <http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/edu/safety/tornadoguide.html>



*"If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn. If you want ten years of prosperity, plant trees.  
If you want one hundred years of prosperity, educate people." — Chinese proverb*



**Featured Story:** July 4<sup>th</sup> is a wonderful holiday that may turn dangerous and even deadly if care is not given to safety, below are a few tips to help you celebrate in a safe manner. (taken from [http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/268799/4th\\_of\\_july\\_safety\\_tips\\_pg2.html?cat=74](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/268799/4th_of_july_safety_tips_pg2.html?cat=74))



1. **Fireworks** *are not toys:* unfortunately, many people are irresponsible with these explosive devices. Many people even give their

children fireworks to play with before the big day arrives. This is one of the reasons why many children are rushed to the hospital each 4th of July. You must consider your child's

safety when buying fireworks. You must also supervise your children very closely. Children under the age of 13 should not even be allowed to light their own fireworks.



2. **Pets!** Each year pets around the country die of heatstroke because their owners are irresponsible. The 4th of July is no different. Many owners forget about the safety of their pets, because they are too caught up in the festivities.

Before taking your pet along on a 4th of July excursion, think about the conditions. Is the weather too hot for your pet? Will the fireworks scare your pet? Will you be able to supply your pet with much needed water throughout the day?

According to the ASPCA's [Complete Guide to Dogs](#), "If a human can barely hear a radio playing at a distance of fifty feet, a dog will hear the same radio, at the same volume, from a distance of 200 feet." Just think what this must sound like to your pet.



3. **Food Safety:** 4th of July barbeques are one of the most important times to remember food safety. Food safety is extremely important when serving items like potato salad. You must remember to

keep foods with mayonnaise cold or salmonella could set in. If salmonella does set in, the safety of your guests will be in danger. Some people simply get nauseous when they get salmonella, while others are much more deeply affected by this condition. Also remember

to cook chicken and hamburgers well done. If your guests complain about the well done hamburgers, just remember that their safety is more important than them turning their noses up to a well done hamburger.



4. **Cocktails!** In order to enjoy your 4th of July party, you must remember this safety tip. You must drink responsibly and you must also make sure that your guests are drinking responsibly. If you let someone leave your home after they've had one too many of your cocktails, you could be at fault if something happens to them or

someone else. If you will be serving alcohol at your 4th of July party make sure to have designated drivers to drive those who will be drinking home. Also for everyone's safety, do not let people who are drinking cook foods on the grill or light fireworks. There are just some things that do not mix!



**Have a happy  
and safe  
holiday!!**



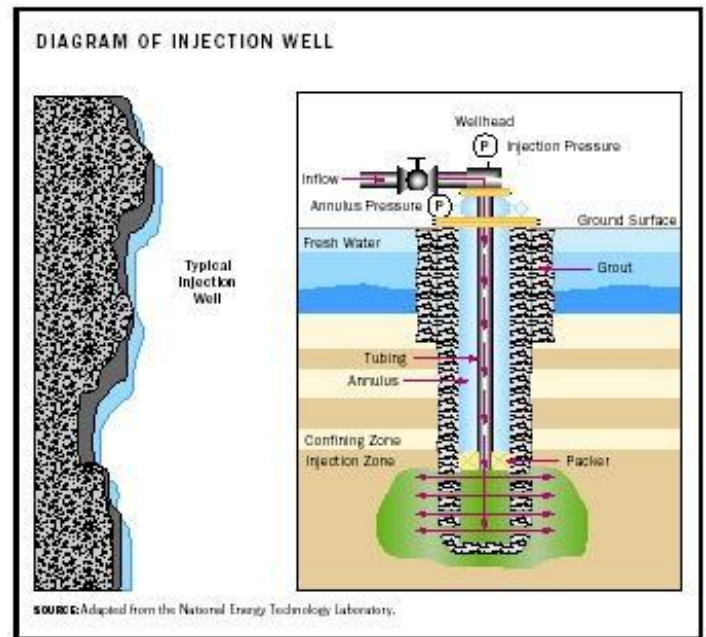
## Broadening your environmental knowledge:

1. **Teratogenic:** Of, or relating to, something that causes malformations of an embryo or fetus.
2. **Mutagenic:** An agent, such as a chemical, ultraviolet light, or a radioactive element, that can induce or increase the frequency of mutation in an organism.
3. **Salmonella:** Are the bacteria that are the most frequently reported cause of food borne illness.

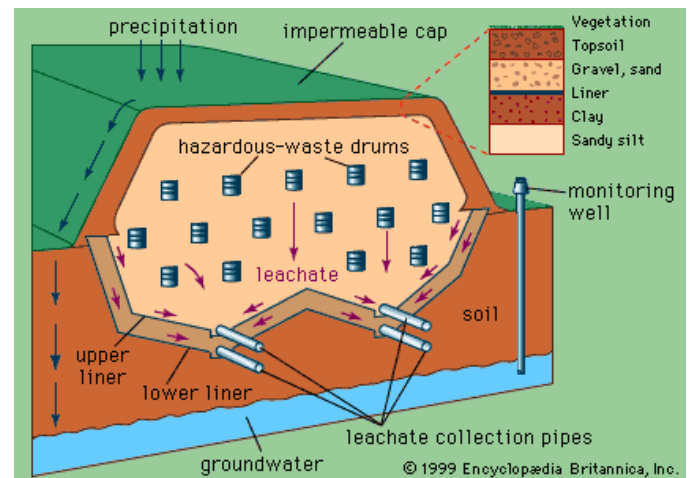
### What happens to our chemical hazardous waste?

Hazardous materials enter the environment in many ways, including air emissions, wastewater discharges, solid waste disposal, and accidental releases from tanks, containers, vehicles, and other conveyances. Once they enter an environmental media (such as soil) they can form a source that can contaminate other media (such as groundwater or air). This is why we must pay particular attention to the storage and disposal of hazardous materials on campus (and at home). At the Wooster Campus we collect our waste monthly and store it at the Metabolic Lab; it is legally stored for 90 days until the OSU contractor, Veolia, comes to pack and remove it. Out of site Out of Mind? No, we (OSU) are responsible for the complete fate of our waste; the typical research laboratory waste is further processed in one, or several, of the following ways: 5 possible treatment methods (neutralization, precipitation, evaporation, distillation, and absorption), incineration, reclaiming/reuse, and/or disposal in a licensed landfill/injection well. All treatment facilities must be licensed and permitted by the federal government to receive and treat waste and all disposal facilities must be licensed and secured to receive hazardous wastes. There are 22 secure chemical waste landfills in the U.S. (the nearest to

us is in Oregon, Ohio). Injection wells are particularly interesting: liquid chemical waste, after treatment, is then injected down deep into the earth via high-pressure pumps, into porous underground geological formations approximately 4000 feet to ensure it is *below* the source of our drinking water.



<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/index.html>



Secure Landfill 1 (<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic-art/522463/19284/Schematic-diagram-of-a-secure-hazardous-waste-landfill-with-a>)

~ Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. ~  
Chief Seattle



## **Safety Spotlight:**

"Lawnmowers can cause devastating injuries in children and are the leading cause of amputations in teens, Hopkins Children's experts warn"

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2008/02/tips-preventing-lawnmower-injuries.aspx>



## **Safety Training - Upcoming**

July 2010 - OSHA 30 Hour Construction Industry  
August 2010 – Forklift, Tractor, Gator, and Skid Steer Training  
Nov 2010 - Emergency Evacuation Procedures  
Dec 2010 - Fire Safety  
Jan 2011 - Personal Protective Equipment (Fitting and Use)  
Feb 2011 – Hazard Communications  
Mar 2011 – Ergonomics  
Apr 2011 – Grounds Respiratory Training and Fit-testing

All training will be announced via e-mail and is presented and/or endorsed by the Wooster Campus Environmental Health and Safety Office.

Good Read: <http://www.esajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1890/070067>

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*From the Author: I would like to express my appreciation for faculty, staff, and students who are making great strides in complying with EHS regulations and OSU policies. Being healthy and safe does not impede research or the effectiveness of your work; thus, it is the mission of this office to protect employees and hopefully enhance the overall quality of life. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please call.*

