Empowering Resources for Researchers: Learning from Other Research Incidents

Safety Champions: Colleen Duncan, Andrea Bohn, and other CSU Veterinarians

Join or Start a Local Research Safety Team (LRST)

NEW Emergency Door Postings

Safety Story: Orphaned Waste

Alan Rudolph, Vice President for Research at Colorado State University shares his thoughts on the new safety culture program and encourages the research community to take advantage of the many resources available to them that support their safety.

“We are embarking on new efforts and are committed to building a strong safety culture at CSU. This is vitally important to the health and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff,” said Alan Rudolph.
"Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it." The quote is most likely due to writer and philosopher George Santayana, and in its original form, it read, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." According to Santayana's philosophy, history repeats. Read more here.

-Nicholas Clairmont 31 July 2013

Select an institution below to visit their "Lessons Learned" webpages detailing various incidents that have happened. Please consider using these resources as learning tools. You could utilize this information during a presentation's "Safety Moment." Or you could incorporate these into training. Find a way to use these resources. Don't become a lesson.
In January 2021, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed an executive order allowing veterinarians, along with other health care professionals, to give COVID-19 vaccines to people as part of the state vaccination campaign. The announcement came months before the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, acting under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, made a similar national authorization. Our state and local government recognized the need for additional personnel to help administer vaccines, and health care professionals rose to the occasion.

“I’m so glad that veterinarians are recognized as capable health care professionals and are able to play a role in this monumental vaccine effort,” Andrea said. “I would like to do what I can to keep people healthy and help end the pandemic.”

To date, an additional 45 members of CSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences are answering the call, and there are still opportunities to help. Health care professionals can volunteer online through sites like the Colorado Volunteer Mobilizer. The list of eligible health professionals includes certified nurse assistants, practical nurses, podiatrists, optometrists, chiropractors, dentists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, veterinarians, respiratory therapists, speech-language pathologists, and surgical assistants.
The Research Safety Culture Program has launched Local Research Safety Teams (LRSTs) to empower researchers to expand their safety networks, educate participants about safety resources, and enable students to form their own LRST in their specific research area. The goal is to enable a student-led, sustainable research safety infrastructure that provides our graduates with an enhanced set of research skills. We meet and communicate via MS Teams, hold monthly meetings, and work on various activities. Please consider joining your colleagues today!

Our current activities include launching area-specific LRSTs, making research safety posters, sharing resources, developing an understanding of research safety needs across the entire research landscape, and holding monthly meetings that cover the vast array of safety resources available at CSU.

Join a Local Research Safety Team (LRST)

Enabling a student-led, sustainable research safety infrastructure that provides our graduates with an enhanced set of employable research skills

Join our monthly meetings to find out more!

Join or Start a Local Research Safety Team Today!
Learn more here.
NEW Emergency Door Postings

If you see a new posting on your door and would like to make changes, please contact EHS@colostate.edu.

PPE and Custodial Requirements can be changed.

NFPA Ratings are based on your chemical inventory. Questions about the new chemical acquisition and management system? Visit the EHS Chemical Management Unit webpage.

Please check CONTACT INFORMATION. This MUST ALWAYS be up-to-date!

If you do NOT have a new Emergency Door Posting, please contact EHS@colostate.edu.
Colorado Spring Indy: Colorado Springs Fire Department responds to a possible hazmat incident by Heidi Beedle

An excerpt from the article: The Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) responded to a potential hazardous materials situation at 21st Street and Sheldon Avenue in Old Colorado City this morning, April 30. Captain Michael Smaldino, CSFD public information officer, said while the contents of the spill have not been identified, there is no danger to the community or the environment at this time.

A team from the Colorado Springs Street Division was standing by to clean up the spill after CSFD verified it was safe to do so. “That was one of the big things we test right away is the pH of it, anything that might be explosive or if it’s hot, things like that,” said Smaldino. “It was negative for all that, so we feel it’s a pretty benign product. [We’re] just trying to figure out what that product is now.”

Smaldino said the illegal dumping of chemicals can be difficult to investigate. “In the hazmat world it’s called ‘orphan waste,’” he said. CSFD will attempt to use the lot number and any identifiable information on the barrel to track down the dumpers, but in these situations that can be a long shot. “On something like this, it’s going to be hard to find out [who’s responsible] unless there’s somebody who saw it get dumped. We always ask if anybody did see anybody in the area because it happened, obviously, sometime during the night.”

"You can’t just say, ‘Oh, let’s go throw some dirt on it.’ We have to identify it to make sure it’s not dangerous to the community, dangerous to the environment," he said. "The way it spilled — it’s right here on the curb and it can get into our water system. That’s why we take it seriously and try to identify this product, because if it is going to have negative effects downstream — literally downstream — we’ve got to make sure we’re mitigating it here.”

Do you have an idea or would like to contribute to the RAM Safety Source? Please contact anthony.appleton@colostate.edu