

Laboratory Safety Digest | January-June 2017

Topics in Safety:

- ▶ [2016 in Retrospect](#)
- ▶ [Creating Safety Cultures in Academic Institutions](#) from the ACS and also from the APLU [A Guide to Implementing a Safety Culture in our Universities](#)
- ▶ ACS [Safety Guidelines for Chemical Demonstrations](#)
- ▶ The chemical safety board released its [final report](#) on the Williams Olefins plant explosion and fire

Iowa State University Environmental Health & Safety:

- ▶ [Walk Safe this Winter](#)
- ▶ ISU's new Incident reporting system: [Accidents and Injuries](#)
- ▶ [Haz-mat Shipping Changes](#)
- ▶ We have updated the [Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)
- ▶ We have updated our [Hearing Conservation Manual](#)

Featuring:

What does an Environmental Specialist do at EH&S? The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program Coordinator is my primary responsibility. I manage the University's Environmental Protection Agency mandated RCRA hazardous waste program, including oversight of the collection and handling of chemical, radiological, and special wastes. In addition, I assist all labs and facilities, conduct ISU hazardous shipping, manage the Vet Med incinerator, coordinate waste minimization, respond to hazardous material/waste emergencies, assist with management of Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, and serve on the radiological emergency response team.



Kyle Dagestad
Environmental Specialist III
Environmental Health & Safety

Why did you choose a career in safety? Enlisting in the USAF in 1998, I began a career as a Hazardous Materials Preparer/Joint Inspector. In this career field you must use SOPs (standard operating procedures) in order to complete tasks while keeping safety at the forefront. There aren't many tasks that you can complete in the USAF without being reminded about personal protective equipment and being "harassed" by Quality Assurance non-commissioned officers whose main focus is your safety. One has to be extremely organized, detailed oriented, and driven to be successful in this profession.

Give us a fun fact about you. I grew up in the small town of Emmons, MN. Population 275. I'm a Minnesota Vikings fan, and yes, it's difficult at times to be a Vikings fan.

How long have you been a DLSC? I have been a Laboratory/Departmental Safety Coordinator since 1979. The DLSC name has changed a few times but it was the same function of looking after faculty, staff and student safety in the laboratories.



Jeanne Wempe Stewart
Assistant Scientist II
Food Science and Human Nutrition

What advice would you give to those that are looking to start a safety program in their department? I would first have the DLSC and their Departmental Chair discuss how to start their safety training. The Department Chair needs to realize how important it is for all research laboratory workers to have appropriate safety training. Once the Departmental Chair gives her/his support for the safety program, the DLSC can start working with the Departmental faculty, staff, grad and undergraduate students to connect them to EHS and all of the safety staff and programs that are available. The faculty and staff will realize that EHS is there to help them no matter what the safety question may be. It will take a bit of time to have everyone get the message that safety training is there to keep all of us safe and to live to perform research another day.

Have you been able to implement safety initiatives with success? Can you identify why they have been received so well? Every school year the first seminar of the semester is a safety seminar that everyone must attend (we do make everyone sign in and we keep these sheets as our record of safety training). During the summer, I work with EHS to see what initiatives EHS has to work on for the upcoming school year and what problems have surfaced during FSHN Lab Safety Surveys. I develop a Power Point presentation teaching about how to correctly prevent the EHS safety concerns for the year, the basic safety training everyone in our Department needs as reflected by the Lab Safety Reports from the Lab Surveys, and basic safety knowledge. I then put that into a friendly competitive game for the students and faculty. I feel that this is a good way to reinforce training and we have fun while teaching safety principles.