Welcome Note (By Farouk Merhebi – EHSRM Director)

Dear Readers,

During the last two months, EHSRM worked with HR department on re-introducing safety sessions in the new employees’ orientation. Three safety related sessions will be provided during the coming new employee orientation in November 2013.

Animals on Campus were recently added to the responsibility of EHSRM in the context of preserving the health and safety of the AUB community. A new dog on campus policy was prepared and cats’ welfare is being taken care of by providing food, and looking after the health and size of the cats’ population.

The agreement with Servicorp for the installation of 3 reverse vending machines was signed by President Dorman and the machines will be installed in November in Ada Dodge Cafeteria, CHSC and AUBMC cafeteria. The machines will serve to improve the recycling program at AUB and to accompany the efforts to revive the Recycling Committee on Campus. The AUB Recycling Committee is expected to become active once nominated by AUB administration.

During the last few months, EHSRM has submitted applications for the re-licensing by the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission of Diagnostic Radiology, Orthodontics, Blood Bank, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, the licensing of the PET and cyclotron facilities, and completed the re-licensing of Nuclear Medicine, Iodine Therapy, and Radiation Oncology.

Article of the Month

Safety Wardens at AUB

As introduced during the previous issue of Stay Safe, EHSRM is working with the recently assigned safety wardens for each building on enhancing the safety culture across AUB.

Each building is now having its own safety and deputy safety wardens who were selected by their Dean/Chairman or Unit Head since they are in the area most of the time; they know the facility occupants, are readily available to give advice on common place safety issues and can respond quicker to problems than outsiders.

The role of the safety wardens will be to follow up, from a safety perspective, on the implementation of safety policies and procedures within their area of influence. The safety warden shall act as a liaison with EHSRM, assist EHSRM in conducting drills, and evacuating buildings, if needed, and notify EHSRM about any emergency or unsafe condition (fire, spills - chemical, radioactive, biological-, reporting an incident, environmental management problem, etc.). Safety wardens are expected to promote safety rules and sound work practices in their areas, to notify staff and students about new safety rules, policies, activities, events and providing a “first line” of observation, information and quick intervention. Safety Wardens are not expected to take decisions related to safety prior to referring to EHSRM, and should not override decisions taken by EHSRM.

EHSRM is currently providing training to safety and deputy safety wardens on safety related aspects in accordance to a preset schedule in life & fire safety, environmental and chemical safety, biosafety and sanitation, radiation safety, incident reporting, office ergonomics, electrical safety, evacuation procedures, etc. EHSRM is planning to conduct first aid training for safety wardens with the Lebanese Red Cross in January 2014. These trainings will give the safety wardens insight about improving safety in their workplace and provide assistance to the Emergency Response Team and the Crisis Response Team in evacuation during critical emergencies.

Safety wardens will be provided with and trained on the use of first aid kits to be used in case of injuries and will be provided with a safety warden’s kit (vest, cap, helmet, whistle, horn, speakerphone, torch, etc) that will facilitate their role during emergency evacuation procedures. During an emergency, the safety warden will assume the role of the Incident Commander until arrival of the ERT to the scene. In the absence of the safety warden, his deputy or any of the floor wardens are supposed to take the lead in evacuating the building.

Think Safe

1. Wearing gloves and goggles while handling hazardous materials is a guaranty for exposure prevention:
   a) True  b) False

2. Chemicals should be stored in alphabetical order:
   a) True  b) False

3. Soap and water is better than using alcohol-based sanitizers for hand washing:
   a) True  b) False

4. Reported incidents in health care facilities lead to punitive actions against the involved person:
   a) True  b) False

Answers are on page 2

Safety Tip

How to report an incident?
1. Immediately, report the incident to your supervisor.
2. The supervisor will investigate and fill an incident report form.
3. In case of bodily injury, a physician will complete the incident report.
4. The incident report will then be filed and a copy sent to EHSRM.

To report an incident CLICK HERE
1. b) False: Hazardous materials can enter the body not only through skin and eyes’ contact, but also through inhalation, ingestion, and injection.

2. b) False: Chemicals need to be stored in groups based on their chemical properties and compatibility. Alphabetical order storage is allowed only within their specific storage group.

3. a) True: Soap and water is the correct way for hand washing. Hand sanitizers should be used when soap and water are not available. It should not replace soap and water in normal cleansing procedures and should be used only as an adjunct.

4. b) False: Reported incidents are not used to take punitive actions against individuals. They are used to protect the rights of employees in cases of injuries, and to serve as an assessment tool to study the workplace environment and make it a safer place.

**EHSRM in Action**

- **The Environmental and Chemical Safety Unit** collaborated with a local paint industry to recycle 1,500 liters of xylene generated at AUBMC; removed hazardous chemical waste from FHS & DTS; conducted periodic inspections on construction and beach safety; conducted training sessions on chemical handling, PPEs, electrical safety and office and lab ergonomics; arranged for FHS graduate students’ visit to the power plant and shops; started lab inspections in Chemistry; and prepared guidelines for asbestos removal and pharmaceutical waste disposal.

- **The Health Physics Services Unit** finalized the revised University Radiation Safety Regulations; prepared a radiation safety policy for OR; relocated the radioactive waste room; secured the import license for one Krypton source for the department of Mechanical Engineering; arranged for and supervised two pre-licensing inspections by the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission at AUBMC and Medical School; finalized new radiation safety caution signs for AUBMC; and provided training for Pediatrics residents, Endocrinology residents, and Research Assistants in the Medical School.

- **The Life and Fire Safety Unit** conducted a Life Safety Code Review for the Architecture Building renovation project; started/witnessed the testing and commissioning process of the safety related systems/features in the Faed Irani Oxy Engineering Complex, Nicely 500 renovation project, Ada Dodge Cafeteria, FM-200 fire suppression system in the IT server room in College Hall; worked on the rectification of the LPG network of the coffee shop kitchen in AUBMC; reviewed the door and hardware schedule of the AUBMC Admin Building; offered two fire safety training sessions to AUB safety wardens; and reviewed 4 in-house renovation projects at AUB and AUBMC.

- **The Occupational Safety Unit** prepared evacuation plans for the basement area at AUBMC; conducted safety audits in different areas including stores and operating room; and responded to several inquiries regarding safety related issues from different units and departments including relocation of evacuation plans and removal of chemicals that are no longer in use.

- **The Risk Management Unit** followed up on the received incident reports; prepared the 2012-2013 annual incident report; offered incident reporting training sessions at PLM-AUBMC; and provided recommendations related to student activities.

- **The Sanitation and Biosafety Unit** conducted weekly monitoring of AUB beach & swimming pool water quality; offered biosafety training sessions for Biology students and tissue culture facility occupants in DTS; conducted biosafety inspection visits and in-place HEPA filters leak tests at H1N1 Room-PLM & BMT – AUBMC.

**In the spotlight**

**EHSRM’s Assistant Sanitarian and Biosafety Officer**

**Suha Arzouni**
- B.Sc. in Analytical Chemistry (1995)
- Masters in Public Health (2009)

After working for more than ten years at AUBMC, Mrs. Arzouni joined EHSRM in 2008 as Biosafety Specialist responsible for conducting biosafety laboratory inspection and performing N95 respirators fit testing, in addition to other duties related to biohazardous waste management, biosafety cabinet testing, research proposals review and follow up on sterilization policies and procedures.

After receiving her Masters degree, Mrs. Arzouni started handling additional responsibilities related to sanitation including food safety and water quality monitoring. Since Summer of 2012, Mrs. Arzouni started managing the incident reporting, investigation and follow up, as well as training related to incident reporting and sharps safety.