

SAFETY NEWSLETTER
Chemistry Department, Queen's University
Winter Term 2013

Here's the first Safety Newsletter. Suggestions always welcome.

- **Safety representatives** from each research group are requested. Each group is asked to send to Johann Jardine the name, room number, and email address of the graduate student or postdoc who will serve as that group's safety representative. The representatives will be asked to help with communication between their group and the safety committee and to help with safety inspections. Good (and bad) practices they observe during inspections can then be shared with their group.

- **Clothing:** Shorts and skirts (above the knee) are no longer allowed in the research and teaching labs of Chernoff Hall. Clothing must cover the legs down to the ankles.

- **Ethanol base baths**, often used for cleaning glassware, are highly flammable. Also, the plastic storage totes that are often used as containers for the bath are slowly weakened by the solution and can fail without warning. Make the bath safer by putting the bath, with its plastic container, inside a flammable-liquid "rinse tank". That way, there is secondary containment in case the plastic fails, and the closed tank lid reduces the fire risk. Commercially available tanks include: Justrite 27311 (11 gal, Fisher price \$355) or 27322 (22 gal, \$553). Come and see one in room 530.



- **Phosgene:** While CO, F₂, and H₂S are famous for being toxic gases, phosgene is 2-3 orders of magnitude more acutely toxic! It has no smell unless the concentration is significantly higher than the concentration required to do harm. If you're thinking of using phosgene, search for safer alternatives. See these references:

- "Phosgene Substitutes and Homologues", Ch. 12 in *Phosgene*, by Ryan, Seddon & Ryan, 1996.
- *Phosgenations: A Handbook*, by Cotarca and Eckert, VCH Wiley, 2004.

- **The sidewalk** between Chernoff Hall and Bader Lane has some loose and uneven patches. It will be repaired in the spring. Until then, please be extra careful.

- **Safety Inspections** will be starting again this term. These are intended to supply supervisors with information about potential hazards in their labs. As much as possible, please fix safety issues (e.g. untidiness, inadequate labels on bottles, frayed electrical cords, etc. etc.) before the inspections happen.

Questions or Concerns about Safety?: As always, if you have any safety concerns or questions, please bring them to the attention of Philip Jessop (safety committee chair, jessop@chem.queensu.ca) or Johann Jardine (building manager, deptmanager@chem.queensu.ca).