

IMS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Newsletter

December 2023

Inside this issue:

- **New procedures for chemical spillage responses**
- **Enter our festive wordsearch competition!**
- **Do you know where to get your safety goggles?**
- **Reminder – procedure for equipment with lasers**
- **Safe recycling of Li-ion batteries**
- **New etiquette guidance documents**

Chemical spillage response – reminder of new procedure

The response to serious chemical spillages within the University has now changed, the Breathing Apparatus teams have been disbanded.

Thank you to our colleagues who were members of the teams!

Responses to serious hazardous chemical spills will now be dealt with by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, as they have expertise in dealing with such incidents and their equipment is checked daily.

Please find details of how to respond to a serious chemical spillage below, they can also be found in the IMS Health and Safety manual and on the walls on level 1, 2, 4 and 6, above the containers of spillage granules. The spillage granules can still be used in the event of non-hazardous spills or small spills.

In event of a serious hazardous chemical spillage:

- Seal area off
- Call the Fire Brigade (9) 999
- Give relevant information:
 - type of spillage,
 - amount,
 - toxicity, etc
- Inform Security (extn 3939) that the Fire Brigade will be attending and why.

Enter our festive wordsearch competition!

We are pleased to announce our festive wordsearch competition – see the attached sheet. Return your answer to Beth Logan by midday Tuesday 12th Dec to be entered into the draw for a £25 Amazon voucher!
(IMS H&S committee members cannot enter competition)

Contact Information

Safety information and forms can be found online at
<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/safety/index.php>

Lead Safety Coordinator

Guy Bewick - Tel. 7398

(g.s.bewick@abdn.ac.uk)

Deputy Lead Safety Coordinator

Sam Miller - Tel. 7484

(sam.miller@abdn.ac.uk)

Technical Resource Officers

Wendy Pickford - Tel. 7460

(w.j.pickford@abdn.ac.uk)

Denise Tosh – Tel. 7457

(d.tosh@abdn.ac.uk)

Claire Walker Tel: 7467

claire.walker@abdn.ac.uk

Dana Wilson Tel: 8797

dana.wilson@abdn.ac.uk

Emergency Contact No.

Security x3939

Eye protection in laboratories – Safety goggles are free and a range now back in stock in IMS stores

Safety goggles must be always worn in laboratory environments unless a risk assessment has been performed to determine they are unnecessary. Safety goggles can be collected from IMS stores free-of-charge. If the ones you currently have are not suitable they can be exchanged for another pair from the selection available. Any queries please contact Denise Tosh (d.tosh@abdn.ac.uk).

Reminder for users of equipment containing lasers.

If you have any equipment coming into the IMS that contains a laser, even if it's just for a short period of time (for a demo for example), you must let Debbie Wilkinson, our Laser Protection Supervisor, know about it in advance so she can ensure adequate safety measures are in place. Please don't hesitate to ask Debbie if you have any questions!

To contact Debbie, email: debbie.wilkinson@abdn.ac.uk



Safe recycling and disposal of old lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries can be a serious fire hazard and it is important they are disposed of carefully.

IT will dispose of batteries found in old computers and laptops.

If you have other lithium batteries for disposal, the advice is to first tape the contacts and they can then be placed with other types of batteries in the battery recycling collectors located within IMS (eg in IMS reception).

If you have large lithium-ion batteries or lots of them, they can be added to the WEEE list for uplift. Please contact a member of the Technical Resource Team if you have any questions.

New! Etiquette guidance documents for lab and non-lab based individuals at Foresterhill

The IMS Health and Safety Committee has recently introduced guidance documents for non-lab and lab-based individuals. They are available via the Key Links section at <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/safety/index.php> (or scan QR code below)

Please take a moment to read them!

