

NEW RULES ON EARLY REPORTING CAN SAVE DEPARTMENT FUNDS

WorkCover NSW has announced a new “incentive” to employers that will commence on the 1st January 2007. At present, whenever there is an injury that requires medical costs the first \$500 of each Workers Compensation claim is charged to the department as a claim excess. In the New Year, if the employee reports injuries immediately and the supervisor reports to OHSIM in 24 hours the University will be able to meet the WorkCover timeframes so that no costs will be charged to the department. Conversely with these new “Excess Rules” delays in reporting or a lack of evidence of an injury report will be treated more seriously by WorkCover. Any Department that has not met the timeframes will be charged an excess that is equivalent to the first weeks wages for each employee who has lost time due to workplace injury.

- The replacement of seminar room chairs that were failing and hazardous to users.
- Locked exit doors in classrooms.
- Personal safety of students working late in largely unoccupied buildings such as computer labs.
- The introduction of cord covers for overhead projectors in teaching rooms.

OHS Induction Checklists have recently been added to the OHSIM website largely due to John’s urging at the Zone 7 and Central OHS Committee meetings.

John expressed his surprise at being the recipient of the award but acknowledged that an awareness of OHS issues is important even within a faculty that is not considered a high risk area. He made reference to the ongoing support of Leanne Mumford for her assistance in ensuring action was taken on the issues he raised.

PETER DUNLOP MEMORIAL AWARD



John Goodhew receives OHS award from Bob Kotic

The winner of the 2006 Peter Dunlop Memorial Award was John Goodhew of the Faculty of Economics and Business. Presentation of the Award was made by COO & DVC Bob Kotic at a ceremony held in the Darlington Centre on 4th December 2006.

John was nominated by his colleagues on the Zone 7 OHS Committee for his quiet, on-going dedication to OHS issues in Zone 7. John has raised issues relating to teaching spaces and academic staff, such as:

- Emergency procedures guidance for academic staff.

NOTICE AND CONSULTATION ABOUT INJURY MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

OHS & Injury Management will be consulting with University staff and WorkCover’s Agent to review the Workplace Injury Management Plan within the Injury Management Policy early in 2007. WorkCover requires large NSW employers hold a Workplace Injury Management Plan. This plan is a component of the University Policy and fulfils part of our obligation for rehabilitating injured staff after a workplace injury. There is a requirement for our Policy to be consistent with the WorkCover Agents procedure. Any staff who would like to make comment about their experience of any aspect of the process of workplace Injury Management as individuals, supervisors or co workers of injured staff can send these to Rosemary Sexton, Manager, Workers Compensation and Injury Management — rsexton@usyd.edu.au

RADIATION SAFETY

The University Radiation Safety Policy and Radiation Safety Procedures have been formally approved and are now available on line. Quick search for “radiation” on the University’s Policy on line web site at: http://fmweb01.ucc.usyd.edu.au/FMPro?-db=POL_Main.fp5&-format=/pol/pol_search.html&-lay=www&-view

In 2007 the Radiation Safety Committee will begin an audit of work and administrative procedures in place in radiation laboratories. The audit will check compliance with these new Radiation Procedures.

One new requirement is that prior to the commencement of any new work involving ionizing radiation sources, a risk assessment must be undertaken. This assessment will be similar to that previously required for research grant applications, but will now need to be approved by the Radiation Safety Committee. The University Radiation Safety Officer will be contacting all Local Radiation Safety Officers about this new risk assessment process. For further details about the radiation safety program contact Howard Ackland — howarda@usyd.edu.au

The Radiation Safety Committee has determined that University radiation workers should be re-trained once every 5 years, consistent with OHS regulations. An appropriate half day refresher course is considered adequate to fulfil this need. Laboratory staff working with radioactive sources who completed their radiation safety training prior to 2003 will therefore need to enrol in a half day refresher course in 2007. Refresher training sessions are being planned for early 2007. Details will be posted on the Sydney Learning website: http://www.usyd.edu.au/sydneylearning/learning_development/workplace_safety.shtml

WORKPLACE INDUCTION

A local workplace induction is required for all new staff, including permanent, part-time, casual, contractors, postgraduate research students, volunteers and those on work experience. The OHS component of this induction should cover:

- Details of any workplace hazards or activities that may cause injury.
- Safe work procedures and equipment to be used.
- Method of raising OHS issues of concern.
- Reporting of incidents and injuries.
- Emergency procedures, from alarm activation and response to building evacuation.

Check-lists to assist with implementation of local OHS induction are available from the OHSIM website at: <http://www.usyd.edu.au/ohs/forms/ohs.shtml>

New staff should be encouraged to attend relevant OHS training. A range of OHS courses are available via Sydney Learning from: http://www.usyd.edu.au/sydneylearning/learning_development/workplace_safety.shtml

FAREWELL LEANNE MUMFORD

Leanne Mumford, long term Senior OHS Officer with OHSIM, has left the University of Sydney to reside in Japan after 18 years of loyal and dedicated service. Leanne played an important role in developing the University's OHS policies and programs. Staff who had been injured or those who were concerned



about their welfare at work always had a wonderful advocate in Leanne. Her experience and social conscience will be missed by OHSIM and the University.

STAFFING CHANGES AT OHSIM

We welcome new faces in the OHSIM team. They are Wendy Collis (Administrative Assistant & Project Officer) and Sean Gaudron (OHS Officer). University staff who have worked with Jenny Dawkins (currently on maternity leave) will be pleased to know that she is the proud mother of a healthy baby girl.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all from the Staff of OHSIM. Remember when you're enjoying the outdoors:

SLIP on a shirt

SLOP on some SPF 30+ sunscreen

SLAP on a broad brimmed hat, and

SLIDE on some sunglasses that give 99-100% protection from UVA and UVB rays.

If you are taking a holiday drive:

STOP every two hours to

REVIVE and stay alert. That way you will

SURVIVE the trip and enjoy your well deserved break.

Address Label

This and other OHSIM Newsletters are also available on our website at www.usyd.edu.au/ohs/news.shtml.