



# Health & Safety Bulletin



Issue 9

January 2014

## Defibrillator deployed in first aid incident



The importance of proper first aid provision, training and equipment, including the strategic decision to make defibrillators available around the University, was highlighted by a recent incident, when an individual collapsed on University premises. By good fortune a medical doctor was

on the scene, and they realised the seriousness of the situation and began administering Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

A defibrillator, which was available at the site, was then deployed and one shock was given to the individual. Cardiac output was then restored, and shortly afterwards an ambulance arrived. Other individuals at the site kept calm and allowed those administering first aid the space to work.

Defibrillators are designed to administer a shock to people if their heart actually requires it, so this really was a life or death situation. The individual who used the equipment was trained in the use of defibrillators by John Nimmo, Health and Safety First Aid Trainer.

The individual concerned is now on the road to recovery, so well done to all concerned.

## Health and Safety Conference 2014

This year's Health and Safety Conference will take place in the Informatics Forum, Crichton Street on Wednesday 26th February 2014, starting at 9:30am, with registration and coffee from 9:00am.

As the theme of the conference will be occupational health in the University of Edinburgh, the Conference is aimed at School Administrators, School Safety Advisers, colleagues from Human Resources, managers, and any staff who have an interest in further understanding occupational health, and how the Occupational Health Unit operates in the University.

The format is intended to be a series of short presentations, with a coffee break and lunch, allowing ample time for discussion and networking. The speakers will be from the Occupational Health Unit, Human Resources, School administration (to share experience in using the service from a School perspective), and the Health and Safety Department.



There will also be a selection of stands in the Atrium, giving further information on the Occupational Health Unit and its partners or related services. A sandwich lunch will be provided, and it is anticipated that the event will finish at around 2:00pm.

If you would like to attend this conference please apply through the Events channel in MyEd.

[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/safety-roles/safety-conference-2014](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/safety-roles/safety-conference-2014)

## Guidance on Cancelling Radioactive Substances Act Certificates

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has issued guidance on what they expect of organisations who wish to cancel Certificate of Registrations and Authorisations. This has been accompanied by Guidance on the decommissioning of non-nuclear facilities, which is one of the pre-requisites of a Certificate cancellation. The former guidance is at a fairly



high level, and should not affect the University's current approach. The latter sets out a standard that the University currently already works to, although there is indication

that the SEPA will be expecting a "decommissioning plan" to be prepared for premises at the stage when work with radioactive material begins.

Copies of the two documents can be found at:

[www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive\\_substances/publications/guidance.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/radioactive_substances/publications/guidance.aspx)

## H&S Committee papers and minutes

The University Health and Safety Committee reports directly to the University Court, and is responsible for the setting of policy in all areas of occupational safety and health within the University. Papers and Minutes can be viewed on the Committee Intranet at:

[www.committee.safety.ed.ac.uk/index.cfm](http://www.committee.safety.ed.ac.uk/index.cfm) after they have been ratified.

The central Health and



Safety Committee would seek to encourage local committees to bring forward items of particular significance and/or general interest or value from their own committees to the University Health and Safety Committee, and to help dis-

seminate locally messages/information coming from the central Committee.

A flow chart has also been produced which highlights possible routes for an individual employee to take forward a health and safety query/issue. Contact details and the flow chart are available on our website at:

[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/about/committees](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/about/committees)

## New University Radiation Safety Codes of Practice

The Radiation Protection Unit has recently issued two new Codes of Practice, CoP/015 and CoP/016. CoP/015 concerns Classified Workers. Classification of workers is required if they could be exposed to radiation doses in excess of three-tenths of the relevant annual dose limit. The CoP covers what classified workers are, when they are needed and what arrangements are in place in the University for their appointment.

CoP/016 outlines the management arrangements for the radiation safety of University personnel who undertake radiation work at organisations, such as the particle accelerators at CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire), outside of the UK. To support this CoP, the Radiation Protection Unit has also issued a revised Proposed Scheme of Work form, for use by those who will be undertaking radiation work at such establishments. The revised PSoW form replaces two older versions.



Both CoPs can be found at: [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/policy-guidance/codes-of-practice](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/policy-guidance/codes-of-practice) The new PSoW form, in both pdf and Word Form format can be found at: [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/tools-forms/tools](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/tools-forms/tools)

## Biosafety Training and Development Assistant



We are very pleased to introduce Dr Fiona Harris who has taken up the new post of Biosafety Training and Development Assistant within the Biosafety Unit. She started on Monday 4th November and is working full time in Charles Stewart House. Her telephone number is 50 8013, email [F.Harris@ed.ac.uk](mailto:F.Harris@ed.ac.uk).

Fiona has a PhD in molecular biosciences and over 25 years of research experience in academia and the pharmaceutical industry. Fiona has considerable experience in health and safety issues and whilst at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, was a member of the Health and Safety Committee and had a role in radiation protection.

## EU Directive Ionising Radiation

The European Council have recently adopted a new Directive (13675/13) on ionising radiation safety at work. This incorporates the latest advice from the International Commission on Radiation Protection, including in particular the proposed reduction in the dose limit for the lens of the eye. It also consolidates a number of other Directives, concerning public information, medical exposure, high-activity sealed sources and "outside radiation workers". The UK must modify the existing UK legislation by December 2017.

## EU Directive Electromagnetic Fields

Earlier this year the European Commission published a Directive on the health and safety of workers exposed to electromagnetic fields. This completes the issue of Directives on safety when working with ionising and non-ionising radiations. The latest Directive (2013/35/EU) covers static electric, static magnetic, and time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields with frequencies up to 300GHz (1 mm wavelength). Member states must implement national legislation by the 1st July 2016. It is expected that some EU and national guidance will be issued at the same time.

## Contact Details

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W: [www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety](http://www.ed.ac.uk/health-safety)

## Forthcoming Training Courses

- Basic Course in Radiation Protection in Teaching and Research - 5th and 12th March 2014
- Laser Safety - 7th March 2014 [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/timetable](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/radiation-protection/training/timetable)
- Fire Steward and Fire Extinguisher theory and practical use - 3rd February 2014  
[www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/fire-safety/training/timetable](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/fire-safety/training/timetable)

For more information on H&S training courses go to [www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/training](http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/health-safety/training)