

SUBJECT: ETHYLENE OXIDE MONITORING, EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE	REFERENCE #1029
DEPARTMENT: HOSPITALWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 3
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

### **MONITORING:**

- All ethylene oxide sterilizers and equipment shall be surveyed every six months by an engineering service to meet OSHA and AQMD standards. This technical consultation report will be submitted to the Engineering Department for recommended repairs.
- All personnel who have contact with the ethylene oxide sterilizers shall be monitored on an individual basis monthly for exposure profiles. Exposure profiles shall be placed in ETO manual for three years. At the end of three years, this information shall be sent to storage for a period of thirty years.

### **EMPLOYEE TRAINING:**

- The Ethylene Oxide Program has been developed to insure the health and safety of personnel who are potentially exposed to ethylene oxide. This program covers all aspects of dealing with ethylene oxide including proper usage, handling techniques and precautions, medical surveillance and communication signs and labels.
- Information and Training:
  - Upon an offer of employment, and before beginning his/her first day of work, each employee who will be exposed to ethylene oxide will be informed of the fact that the department they will work in uses ethylene oxide for sterilization and each employee may be potentially exposed in the event of an equipment failure.
  - Symptoms of Exposure:
    - High concentration include: coughing, severe skin burns, rashes, sores, headache, nausea, difficulty breathing, vomiting, destruction of red blood cells, pulmonary edema and death.
    - Low concentration include delayed onset of symptoms.
    - Acute exposure includes: diarrhea, vomiting, respiratory irritation and eye irritation.
    - Chronic exposure includes: spontaneous abortions, reproductive problems, peripheral neuropathy, altered behavior, anemia, secondary respiratory infections, abnormal nerve conduction, velocity, cataracts and may cause sensitization (i.e., eye or upper respiratory irritation).

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE TRAINING	REFERENCE #1014
DEPARTMENT: HOSPITALWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 2
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

**EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Obey established safety rules.
- Use personal protective equipment as required.
- Inform your supervisor of:
  - Any symptoms of overexposure that may possibly be related to hazardous chemicals.
  - Missing labels on containers.
  - Malfunctioning safety equipment.
  - Any damaged containers or spills must be reported immediately.

**TRAINING:**

- Purpose:
  - This procedure outlines the Hospital policy for training personnel who are required to handle hazardous chemicals.
- Scope:
  - Training for personnel will include as a minimum, the following areas:
    - The Hazard Communication/Right to Know Law
    - Symptoms associated with overexposure to hazardous materials. What to do if overexposed to hazardous materials.
    - Physical and health risks associated with hazardous chemicals.
    - First Aid treatment.
    - How to read Material Safety Data Sheets. Location where MSDS file is kept.
    - How employee can determine the existence or release of a hazardous chemical.

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL COMMUNICATION PROGRAM	REFERENCE #1013
DEPARTMENT: HOSPITALWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 7
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE:
	REVISED:

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this program is to ensure that the hazardous chemicals used by each department at the Hospital are evaluated and that information concerning their hazards is transmitted to affected personnel within their department. The information transmitted will include container labeling and other forms of warning, Material Safety Data Sheets and personnel training about toxic substances used in the Hospital that could affect their health.

**SCOPE:**

Any chemical which is known to be present in the work place in such a manner that personnel may be exposed under normal conditions of use or in a foreseeable emergency.

**DEFINITION:**

- **“Hazardous Chemical”** - means any chemical for there is physical hazard or health hazard.
- **“Physical Hazard”** - means a chemical for which there is scientifically valid evidence that it is a combustible liquid, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, unstable (reactive) or water-reactive.
- **“Health Hazard”** - means a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence, based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principles, that acute or chronic health affects may occur in exposed employees. The term “health hazard” includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxic, irritants, corrosive, sensitizers, hematotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxin, agents which act on the hematopietic system and agents which damage the lungs, skin or mucous membranes.
- **“Label”** - means any written, printed or graphic material displayed or affixed to containers of hazardous materials.
- **“Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)”** - means written or printed material concerning a hazardous chemical which is prepared by the manufacturer for each hazardous chemical they produce.
- **“Training”** - means to make proficient with specialized instruction and practice.

SUBJECT: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN	REFERENCE #1001
DEPARTMENT: ORGANIZATIONWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 9
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**SCOPE:**

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan's scope is to provide for a program to safely control hazardous materials and waste in the environment of \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital.

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan is to develop a system that addresses the identification, selection, handling, storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.

**GOALS:**

- The goals of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan includes the following:
  - To provide education to personnel on the elements of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Program;
  - To identify, evaluate and inventory hazardous materials and waste generated or used consistent with applicable regulations and laws;
  - To provide adequate space and equipment for the safe handling and storage of hazardous materials and waste;
  - To establish emergency procedures to use during hazardous materials and waste spills or exposures.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

The Safety Officer, Director of Materials Management and Safety Committee are responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring and managing the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Program.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE SELECTING, HANDLING, STORING, USING AND DISPOSING FROM RECEIPT OR GENERATION THROUGH USE OR FINAL DISPOSAL:**

- A system has been developed that addresses the identification of hazardous materials and waste from selection to the point of final disposal. Policies and procedures related to various hazardous materials and wastes are reviewed, revised and approved by \_\_\_\_\_ and by the appropriate committee.