

Environmental Health &amp; Safety

# Safety BEACON

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[www.udel.edu/ehs](http://www.udel.edu/ehs)  
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## ChemInventory

If you have not yet heard, the University has purchased a new chemical inventory system (CIS) called ChemInventory. This system will improve how you will interface, order, and track the chemicals in your laboratory!

### What does the CIS offer?

The new CIS platform is web-based and includes features such as chemical structure and sub-structure searchability, container barcoding, and inventory sharing. Since the CIS is web-based, it is available on any platform (Mac or PC), and any mobile device (phone or tablet).

### Why change from the old CIS?

With the implementation of ChemInventory, users will now have an intuitive interface they can use daily to search their inventory (or shared inventories), add ordering information, and conduct live inventory audits. The CIS will now make the system USEFUL to researchers and will not be just another piece of software to dump data once a year for regulatory compliance.

### How is the CIS being rolled out?

The initiative is to inventory and barcode every commercially purchased laboratory chemical on campus. To help each lab make the transition to the new system, barcode containers, and create an up-to-date inventory, the University will hire a team of Chemical Inventory Specialists, led by EHS, to do the job! The team of six individuals will work closely with each PI and group member to develop a strategy and schedule for entering the lab and inventorying the chemicals. EHS understands that each lab is unique and we will not enter any areas deemed sensitive, including gloveboxes, minus 80 freezers, or other spaces the group designates as such unless we are working with a group member.

### When is the CIS available?

Today! The inventory team has already begun to inventory chemicals on campus, and the results so far have been excellent! The team will systematically work department by department until we have reached each lab. However, if you want to get your lab up and running on your own, please contact EHS, and we will be happy to help you do so.

### Do you want to learn more?

If you or your department would like to learn more about ChemInventory, EHS will gladly provide a demo of the CIS and go over any questions you may have. If you are interested in learning more or would like to obtain fliers to hang in your department, please contact EHS at [dehsafety@udel.edu](mailto:dehsafety@udel.edu).

# Kidde Fire Extinguisher Recall

*Was your fire extinguisher recalled?*

Type of product: Kidde fire extinguishers with plastic handles and fire extinguishers with push-button Pindicators.

Hazard: The fire extinguishers can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge and can fail to activate during a fire emergency. In addition, the nozzle can detach with enough force to pose an impact hazard.

Plastic handle fire extinguisher description: The recall involves 134 models of Kidde fire extinguishers manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017, including models that were previously recalled in March 2009 and February 2015. The extinguishers were sold in red, white and silver, and are either ABC- or BC-rated. The model number is printed on the fire extinguisher label. For units produced in 2007 and beyond, the date of manufacture is a 10-digit date code printed on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. Date codes for recalled models manufactured from January 2, 2012 through August 15, 2017 are 00212 through 22717. For units produced before 2007, a date code is not printed on the fire extinguisher.

Push-button Pindicator fire extinguisher description: The recall involves eight models of Kidde Pindicator fire extinguishers manufactured between August 11, 1995 and September 22, 2017. The no-gauge push-button extinguishers were sold in red and white, and with a red or black nozzle. These models were sold primarily for kitchen and personal watercraft applications.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately contact Kidde to request a free replacement fire extinguisher and for instructions on returning the recalled unit, as it may not work properly in a fire emergency.

Recall date: November 2, 2017



Plastic handle fire extinguisher



Push-button Pindicator

For more information and a full list of the recalled fire extinguisher models visit:

<https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2017/kidde-recalls-fire-extinguishers-with-plastic-handles-due-to-failure-to-discharge-and>

## Radon in your Home

*What you don't know WILL hurt you*



You can't see radon. And you can't smell it or taste it. But it may be a problem in your home. Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. That's because when you breathe air containing radon, you can get lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths.

Radon comes from the natural (radioactive) breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water and gets into the air you breathe. Radon can be found all over the U.S. It can get into any type of building—homes, offices, and schools—and result in a high indoor radon level. But you and your family are most likely to receive your greatest exposure at home, where you spend most of your time.

Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from radon. EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes for radon. Testing is inexpensive and easy—it should only take a few minutes of your time. Nearly 1 out of every 15 homes in the U.S. is estimated to have elevated radon levels.

EPA recommends starting with a short-term test. These remain in your home for two days to 90 days and are typically “charcoal canisters”. They cost \$10-\$20 and are found in most home improvement stores and on-line. Follow the instructions for use and then mail them off to be processed. Soon afterward you will receive your radon concentration result. If the result is 4 picocuries per liter (4pCi/L) or more, EPA recommends doing long-term testing.

Long-term testing (over 90 days) is done usually with an “alpha track” detector (\$20-\$30) which also is easy to obtain and use. If this test also reads 4 picocuries per liter or more, then EPA recommends that you fix your home.

Radon reduction systems work and they are not too costly- about the same as other home repairs. Even very high levels can be reduced to acceptable levels. Check with your state radon agency when selecting a radon mitigation company. More about fixing a radon problem can be found at the EPA website- <https://www.epa.gov/radon/publications-about-radon>

Source: **EPA, A Citizen's Guide to Radon** <https://www.epa.gov/radon>



## Fitness and activity trackers *far from being a fad!*



Fitness trackers, those gadgets that keep track of how many steps you take each day, are increasing in popularity. Chances are you or someone you know has one, perhaps they even received one as a Christmas gift. Far from being a fad, fitness trackers encourage healthy behavior by gently “nagging” you to get up and move, which in turn improves your health.

What type of movement do you need to get healthier? A recent study published in *The Lancet*, a respected medical journal, confirms that heart health can be directly related to moderate daily physical activity. In a study published in September 2017, researchers found that people who exercise moderately at least 150 minutes a week reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease by 5% and the risk of death by 8%. This benefit of exercise increases with the amount of weekly exercise that is done. People who exercised more than 750 minutes a week (about 1 and 3/4 hours per day) reduced cardiovascular disease by 13% and the risk of death by 10%.

The lesson from this study is the more physical activity in your life, the healthier you will be. Moderate exercise does not require any special equipment or even breaking a sweat. All you need to do is get up out of your seat and move. Walking is the perfect example of moderate exercise and, with a little adjustment to your schedule, can be easily incorporated into your daily routine: Instead of driving to your next meeting, leave 15 minutes earlier and walk. Instead of circling the parking lot looking for a parking spot near the store, park in the back of the lot and walk to the front door. Instead of plopping on the couch after dinner, take a walk around the neighborhood. Other examples of moderate exercise include doing household chores, gardening, cutting the grass, dancing- just about anything that gets you up and moving.

So to improve your health and quality of life, just don't sit there, get up and move!

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## Space Heaters

### *Safely use space heaters in your home*

As the temperatures outside continue to plummet and the threat of snow is always on the radar; the popularity of adding additional heat to our homes comes to the forefront. Whether you have that cold room in your home that just doesn't want to warm up or you are trying to save some money on the electric bill; using a space heater can pose safety hazards that must be taken into consideration. The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) published the following tips and recommendations when it comes to electric space heaters:

- Purchase a heater with the seal of an independent testing laboratory (Ex: UL).
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including people.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Place the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Make sure your heater has an auto shut-off to turn the heater off if it tips over.
- Keep space heaters out of the way of foot traffic. Never block an exit.
- Keep children away from the space heater.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Space heaters should be turned off and unplugged when you leave the room or go to bed.

Happy Birthday

# BIORAFT

ENTERPRISE SAFETY, COMPLIANCE & TRAINING SOFTWARE

We are excited to celebrate our BioRAFT lab management system turning one! Are you receiving emails stating that you need to go into the system to confirm your group's job activities or lab members? What about emails regarding overdue trainings for yourself or other lab members? These notifications are not spam! Emails come from BioRAFT with an address of [support@bioraft.com](mailto:support@bioraft.com) or [no-reply@bioraft.com](mailto:no-reply@bioraft.com)

The system is automatically set up to annually remind both PI's as well as any Compliance Liaisons to go into the system and review/update the hazards and list of members in your lab group. The Compliance Liaison can do the updates, but the PI will have to go into the system to approve these updates to finalize the process. This should be a fairly quick process unless your group has had many changes in the past year.

Training reminders go out to a lab member a month before the training expires, two weeks before expiration, then when the training actually expires. After that, if the training is not completed overdue notices are issued. If the training is still not completed, the system will send both the member as well as their PI/Compliance Liaison a notification that training is needed. So if you are a supervisor or Compliance Liaison and receive overdue notices for one of your lab members, they have already received several reminders!

If you are receiving these emails and are not sure how to proceed, feel free to call our office at 302-831-8475, or email [dehsafety@udel.edu](mailto:dehsafety@udel.edu) and we will be glad to help you!

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## EHS would like to hear from you!

We encourage all members of the UD community to submit safety improvement ideas on campus.

You may submit ideas that impact your personal safety here on campus or the safety of the greater community.

Your participation will help raise safety awareness in our community!

Please submit your safety concerns/ideas via email to [dehsafety@udel.edu](mailto:dehsafety@udel.edu)

