Office of Environmental Health and Safety
http://www.unh.edu/research/environmental-health-and-safety

**Mission:** The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) works to assure safe and healthful environments for all segments of the campus population through programs of information and education, review and monitoring, technical consultation and provision of direct services. OEHS is also responsible for developing programs to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal health, safety and environmental regulations, and campus policies on environmental health and safety.

**Vision:** OEHS will be a valued partner in the creation and maintenance of a safe and healthy University environment and will achieve excellence through its provision of leadership, oversight, stewardship, and services.

**Risk Management and Research Safety Compliance Programs**

**Art Safety:** The art safety program was developed to help ensure the health and safety of all faculty, staff, students, and visitors in drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, woodworking, and printmaking studios. Many of the same hazardous materials and operations that are found in industrial applications are also found in these locations. These hazards may include solvents, dusts, fumes, mists, dyes, and a variety of physical hazards including machinery with moving parts, noise, sharp objects, rigging, and electrical systems.

**Biosafety:** This program was developed to meet federal biosafety requirements to ensure the safe handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of biohazards. Biohazards are microorganisms, microbial toxins, or other biological agents that can infect and/or cause disease in humans. Biohazards may include bacteria, biological toxins, viruses, fungi, rickettsia, prions, protozoans, parasites, or recombinant and synthetic nucleic acid molecules. UNH researchers who handle, store, transport, or dispose of biohazards are required to register with the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). Registration is required prior to working with biohazardous materials. The registration form is available online at http://www.unh.edu/research/ibc-registration.

**Chemical Safety:** This program was developed to meet requirements promulgated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the New Hampshire Department of Labor. These regulatory agencies require employers to convey chemical health and safety information to their employees and ensure that proper work practices and procedures are in place to protect employees. The chemical safety program helps to 1) ensure the safe handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous chemicals; 2) provide emergency response to incidents involving hazardous chemicals; and 3) educate the UNH community about the safe use of hazardous chemicals in research, teaching, and engagement activities.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response:** OEHS works closely with the UNH Police Department and various federal, state, and local organizations to plan and prepare for emergencies and disasters. A few examples of disaster preparedness programs developed by OEHS include the UNH Emergency Procedures Program, UNH Integrated Contingency Plan, and the UNH Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan.

**Fire Safety:** OEHS works with the Durham Fire Department to deal with fire safety matters at UNH. OEHS assists with fire and life safety building inspections, fire extinguisher training, and fire evacuation drills.

**Hazardous Materials Minimization:** This program provides information, guidelines, and procedures for minimizing the quantity and toxicity of hazardous materials at UNH. The hazardous materials minimization program helps to ensure a safe, compliant, and sustainable campus.

**Hazardous Materials Shipping:** The hazardous materials shipping program provides training, packaging guidance, regulatory review, and documentation preparation for shipments of hazardous materials. Items that may require
special shipping procedures include hazardous chemicals, lithium batteries, scientific equipment, dry ice, compressed gas, paint, biological materials and preserved specimens.

**Hazardous Waste Management**: OEHS is responsible for ensuring that all regulated wastes are managed in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. OEHS personnel provide technical assistance and guidance to members of the University community regarding the proper handling, storage, and disposal of wastes generated from research, teaching, maintenance, and construction activities. OEHS strives to ensure the safe, efficient, and environmentally sound management of chemical, universal, radioactive, and biohazardous wastes from generation to disposal.

**Occupational Health & Safety**: The occupational health & safety program helps to ensure a safe and healthy work environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. A few examples of the formalized occupational health and safety programs offered by OEHS include the following: Accident and Injury Investigation Program, Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan, Hazardous Building Materials Operations and Management Plan, Confined Space Entry Program, Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines for Contractors, Fall Protection Program, Hazard Communication Program, Hearing Conservation Program, Hot Work Permit Program, Lockout/Tagout Program, and the Respiratory Protection Program.

**Industrial Hygiene**: The industrial hygiene program provides expertise in assessing and controlling health issues created by exposure to chemical, physical (noise and thermal stresses) and ergonomic hazards, and indoor air quality concerns. This is accomplished by the development and implementation of programs designed to identify and control hazards, providing on-site hazard assessment and investigative services, exposure monitoring and air sampling, and working with various campus groups on hazard control strategy design.

**Radiation Safety**: OEHS is committed to provide radiation protection services of the highest quality. This is accomplished by providing full and complete compliance with all relevant requirements in *New Hampshire Rules for the Control of Radiation*. The radiation safety program oversees activities that may result in the potential exposure of ionizing radiation to UNH personnel, members of the general public, and the environment. OEHS is committed to the fundamental principle that levels of radioactivity to be used, and exposures to all sources of ionizing radiation, are to be maintained As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA). The use of class 3B lasers, class 4 lasers, and x-ray devices are also managed under the radiation safety program.

**UNHCEMS®**: The UNHCEMS® program is a web-based Chemical Environmental Management System. The program is used to inventory hazardous materials at UNH and to provide relevant health and safety information to campus personnel. The Durham Fire Department and the University Police Department have access to data in UNHCEMS® and have used it successfully in situations that required immediate, accurate information about the contents of a room and whom to contact in an emergency.