

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY LIABILITIES AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The most common environmental risk management and regulatory exposures *Aon Environmental Risk Services* has encountered at colleges and universities include:

- Improper storage of pesticides and fertilizers associated with grounds keeping which may lead to surface water, soil or groundwater pollution.
- Normal and routine application of pesticides and fertilizers to ball fields and green spaces over many years may impair storm water runoff and shallow groundwater.
- Corroded wastewater and storm water sewers.
- Inadequate knowledge about the operations and possible use of hazardous materials by all of the academic departments, especially in classroom laboratories.
- The use of chemicals at possibly multiple locations (research and testing laboratories) around the property.
- Poor or nonexistent underground storage tank and piping management programs.
- Existence of environmental liability due to underground tanks that have been removed or abandoned for "unknown" reasons.
- Improperly maintained PCB-containing electrical equipment.
- Uncertainties about the historical use of the property and incomplete records on former on-site activities.
- Friable and non-friable asbestos-containing materials.
- Formaldehyde in university offices.
- Radon emissions and accumulation, especially in subsurface, poorly ventilated offices and storerooms.
- Direct exposure or potentially hazardous materials to the general public.
- Complacent attitude by departmental management about the possibility of environmental liabilities.
- Noise and air emission nuisance problems to adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- Lack of proper training programs for vehicle maintenance staff concerning asbestos (brakes and clutches) and CFCs (AC).
- Lack of a storm water pollution prevention plan.
- Exposures from lead based paints and pipes in older buildings.
- No formal or informal training program for graduate and laboratory assistants concerning chemical handling, storage and disposal.

Additional specialized exposures associated with teaching hospitals and similar clinical institutions include:

- No coordinated or formal waste management program.
- Ignorance of waste management regulations
- Illegal disposal practices for hazardous and radionuclide wastes.
- Incomplete incineration of harmful biological materials.
- Incineration of plastic bags, petri plates, tubing, etc., generating hazardous pollutants.
- No incinerator stack emission testing to confirm noxious emissions are not migrating off-site.

- Inadequate treatment of pathogenic, carcinogenic and infectious organisms in wastewater discharges posing health hazards to downstream sewer workers.
- Lack of dikes or other forms of containment for hazardous wastes and raw materials storage areas.
- Absence of coordinated spill control plans.
- Insufficient chemical pretreatment of wastewater discharges to municipal wastewater treatment plants.
- Inadequately designed or installed backflow prevention devices which are in place and which are intended to prevent harmful chemicals and microorganisms from siphoning back into the municipal water supply.
- Improper maintenance of laboratory hood filters.

The list of exposures is not an exhaustive or comprehensive enumeration of every possible environmental risk associated with the specified industry. The list identifies general exposures associated with the specified industry, and does not identify environmental risks associated with a particular site or facility.