

(Reviewed 7/09)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PERSONNEL ENTERING LABORATORIES CONTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

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(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)



Employees at many UNL laboratories routinely use small quantities of radioactive materials when conducting their research. If handled improperly, the radiation emitted from these materials can result in increased risks of cancer or other injuries. To prevent this, employees directly handling these materials are required to be trained as radiation workers by UNL EHS staff. Others who enter these areas are not permitted to work with radioactive materials and must follow the instructions provided below.

- **NO FOOD, DRINKS OR SMOKING PERMITTED IN LABORATORY AREAS.** This is especially important in radiation areas due to the possible ingestion of radioactive materials. Along with this requirement, no cups, eating utensils, or discarded food or beverage items are permitted as they will be considered evidence of food in the radiation area.
- **RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS MUST BE SECURED OR UNDER THE CONTROL OF A RADIATION WORKER AT ALL TIMES.** If you observe unattended radioactive materials, report them to the lab supervisor immediately.
- The tri-foil radiation symbol (shown above) indicates a potential radiation hazard. Contact the lab supervisor prior to entering any area with such a label for specific instructions on hazards in that area.
- Bench-top and lab areas designated for radiation work are normally outlined by yellow and magenta radiation tape. Potentially contaminated equipment in these areas are also normally labeled with this tape and/or the radiation symbol. Such equipment should not be removed or used without permission of the lab supervisor of the area.

- Boxes and containers with radiation labels should not be handled by non-radiation workers. If these items are empty and free of contamination, the radiation symbol should be removed or obliterated before disposal.
- Waste containers designated for radioactive waste are not to be emptied by anyone other than EHS personnel.
- If radioactive materials are spilled, immediately evacuate to a safe area. Remain at the evacuation site until surveyed for radioactive contamination.

For information or additional training regarding radioactive materials, contact EHS Radiation Safety staff at 472-2157. In the event of an emergency, evacuate the area and call 9-911.

*This information supplements the UNL Radiation Safety Manual. Please refer to the full manual for more details.*