

## **RADIATION SAFETY AWARENESS INFORMATION**

### **What is radiation?**

Radiation is the emission and transmission of energy through space or through a material medium and also the radiated energy itself. Types of radiation include: Alpha, Beta, & Gamma radiation, as well as x-rays, lasers, and UV light.

### **Where might I encounter radiation?**

Radiation occurs naturally in the environment (sunlight, minerals, radon gas) and can be found in commonly sold products (wrist watches and signs). Radiation can also be found in energy production and in the medical field (nuclear power plants, x-rays, cancer treatment), and some university laboratories use radiation or radioactive materials in research.

### **Radiation Safety**

Radiation Safety in Indiana is controlled by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC and IDEM function to protect ALL persons who work with radioactivity or could potentially come into contact with it.

PFW Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) must train and authorize ANYONE who will be working with radioactive materials. EHS regularly surveys all areas where radioactive materials are used to ensure a clean and safe work environment for everyone!

ALL radioactive materials, equipment, and waste MUST be clearly labeled as radioactive. The radiation symbol should be easily identifiable on any radioactive materials:



### **Spills or Emergencies**

As support staff, it is NOT your job to clean up radioactive spills or waste! EHS personnel are trained in the proper clean-up of radioactive spills. ONLY EHS personnel should engage in cleaning up a radioactive spill.

If a spill occurs, follow these steps:

- Leave the lab
- Go to the nearest phone
- Call University Police at 16827
- Restrict entry to the lab except for emergency personnel

If there is a possibility that your shoes have been contaminated, restrict the area you walked in and inform EHS of this area. Resume work only after EHS has approved you to do so.

### **Who to contact with questions regarding radioactive materials:**

Environmental Health & Safety – Stephanie Phillips at 481-4193

_____ Employee name (please print)	_____ Training date
_____ Employee signature	_____ Department
_____ Supervisor's Name	_____ Training given by

Supervisors/DITs:

Please keep a copy of this certification page and distribute completed forms to:  
Environmental Health & Safety (SB, room SB G48)