Snapshot of Unit: Academic and Research Environmental Health and Safety (AR-EHS) works in partnership with faculty, researchers, administration, staff, and students to promote safe and regulatory compliant research and laboratory environments. This is accomplished by developing safety programs and procedures, providing educational training programs, and ensuring compliance with applicable federal, state, Texas A&M University System, and West Texas A&M University policies, regulations, rules, and standards.

Highlights

- Updated laboratories: key swipes for laboratories in Mary Moody Northern Hall; biosafety cabinets for Palo Duro Research Center and Virgil Henson Activity Center (Human Performance Lab); updated vent hoods for Killgore Research Center.
- Compliance Committees: Institutional Review Board (86 proposals for 2013; 54 proposals for 2014); Institutional Animal Care and Usage Committee (33 proposals); Institutional Biosafety Committee (2 proposals).
- Inspections: 104 laboratories (each year).
- Lab safety training for over 2,458 students (Fall 13 & Spring 14) with completion tracking and notification of instructors of delinquent students.
- Chemical inventory of over 5,000 chemicals with safe, compliant and segregated storage. Ability to utilize excess chemicals for cost savings. Implementing barcoding system to include segregation chemical component.
- Developed & implemented WTAMU laser safety program which was approved by Texas State Department of Health Services.
- Developed & implemented WTAMU autoclave plan which was approved by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- Developed & implementing WTAMU respiratory protection plan.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive AR-EHS program with over 50 Standard Operating Procedures and Compliance Hot Line [http://www.wtamu.edu/compliancehelpline](http://www.wtamu.edu/compliancehelpline).
- Developed additional educational training materials for IRB that are sent out to faculty, staff, and students every fall and spring semester.
- Training for IRB and IACUC - conducted through CITI Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative.
- Collaborated with departments to create discipline specific safety trainings such as General Ag Animal Safety, General Art Safety, and Theatre Safety.
- Participated in two US Department of Agriculture audits in regards to research facilities and exhibitor facilities with no findings on each audit.
- Daily respond to AR-EHS questions or requests for assistance by faculty and staff.

Budget Overview

Current levels of funding are adequate to meet mission critical needs within Academic Research Environmental Health and Safety. Requesting no additional resources for 2014-2015.