Shipping Hazardous Materials at UAB

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) regulates the transportation of hazardous materials in the U.S. Anyone involved in the shipping of such a material (packing, labeling, preparing papers, loading, etc) is subject to DOT regulations and procedures. There are severe penalties (up to $250,000 fines and a year in jail for individuals, up to $500,000 in fines for organizations) for non-compliance with these laws.

Recently, there was a mistake in the air shipment of a specimen on dry ice (a hazardous material) from campus. This incident has drawn the attention of the FAA and UAB was issued a “warning notice”. This means that any further violations will mostly bring about legal enforcement actions against UAB. Additionally, the FAA has scheduled an inspection and review of UAB training records during the month of July. In order to comply with the applicable requirements for shipping materials that by definition ‘could adversely affect the safety of the public, handlers or carriers during transportation’, OH&S has developed several on-line courses.

- **BIO202: Shipping Infectious Substances Category A**
  ([http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/category_A.html](http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/category_A.html))
  
  Any UAB employee who handles, or offers for transport, a Category A Infectious Substance (may cause permanent disability of life threatening or fatal disease to humans or animals when exposure occurs) **must** complete training every two (2) years or if regulations change. This is a Federal requirement per the Hazardous Materials Regulation.

- **BIO201: Shipping Infectious Substances Category B**
  ([http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/category_B.html](http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/category_B.html))
  
  Any UAB employee who handles or offers for transport a Category B Infectious Substance (does not cause permanent disability or life threatening or fatal disease to humans or animals when exposure occurs.), **must** complete training every two (2) years or if regulations change. This is a Federal requirement per the Hazardous Materials Regulation.

- **BIO200: Shipping with Dry Ice**
  ([http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/BIO200.html](http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/BIO200.html))
  
  Any UAB employee who chooses to ship a package using dry ice **must** be trained to do so every two (2) years or if regulations change according to both international and federal requirements.

Examples of Category A and Category B materials can be found here: [http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/category_A/shipping_inf_sub_cat_A_B.pdf](http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/educationandtraining/category_A/shipping_inf_sub_cat_A_B.pdf)

If you need to ship **any** chemical, need to ship a package containing **more than 5 pounds of dry ice**, or have questions about the proper packing and shipping of a material, please contact OH&S at 4-2487 and we will facilitate the proper packing, labeling and shipping of the material.