

Health & Safety

M.J. De,Maine

The Institute's Health & Safety management was audited by SCRI's internal and external auditors. The auditors examined procedures and record keeping and drew attention to some minor points which were either rectified immediately or set in motion for completion in the near future.

Over the course of the year, 49 members of staff undertook a half-day course on manual handling run by JHW Training. Thirty-two candidates sat a half-day internal course on Health & Safety awareness and risk assessment for laboratory managers and work group supervisors. The First Aid Officer and deputy attended a one-week course for first aid instructors held by Liberty Occupational Health. First aid refresher training and training of new volunteer first-aiders to HSE-approved standard was carried out in four courses throughout the year. One course was audited, as part of HSE's continuous assessment of first aid training standards, and the institute received formal approval and confirmation of its certificate authorising the use of our own qualified trainers. A half-day course on health and safety awareness for senior managers was presented to heads of Divisions and Units and their deputies, by management training consultants AMT International. Fire safety training was carried out for all available SCRI staff over a one week period. The training consisted of two video presentations and a practical demonstration of fire extinguisher use given by Fire Fighting Equipment Limited. A video presentation and discussion on tractor safety was held with 21 members of the Institute's Experimental Field and Glasshouse Research and Engineering and Maintenance units.

The Safety Co-ordinator attended a meeting of the BBSRC safety officers at BBSRC headquarters, Swindon to discuss health and safety matters related to the BBSRC and SABRI institutes. There were two meetings of the statutory SCRI Health, Safety and Welfare Committee which were attended by management delegates, union and other staff representatives. Meetings of work area safety advisers with the Safety Co-ordina-

tor took place every two months throughout the year where health and safety issues were discussed. These meetings are a medium for passing comments and recommendations to management on a frequent basis. In addition, there were four meetings of the Genetic Modification Safety Committee and four meetings of Institute fire officers and work area fire wardens, which were all held according to a planned timetable.



The SCRI/MRS Manual of Health & Safety Management was revised and updated. A virtual copy was made in 'html' language and placed on the Institute's intra-net. Any member of staff can now access the manual at any time from any networked personal computer on-site, and virtual links enable the user to navigate to subjects of interest using the contents list.