

Health & Safety

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The Institute was the subject of an inspection (in September 2000) by a team of Occupational Health & Safety specialists drawn from the BBSRC and SABRIs. The inspection report was generally favourable but several recommendations were made to improve health and safety management. Action on these is continuing and progress is monitored directly by the Deputy Director with regular reports being made to SCRI's Governing Body.

Over the year, the pesticide store has been refurbished with fire-proof, non-absorbent steel shelving replacing the old wooden shelves, and the floor has been bunded to contain accidental spillage of hazardous liquids. To aid escape during a power failure, emergency lighting has been installed in D building. The Institute engineer, Mr Petrie, has been appointed as Fire Officer. Fire risk assessments are taking place for all the buildings on the site with five completed to date.

Training in fire safety precautions has been introduced for all users of laminar flow cabinets, as working with these is seen as a high fire risk. The training involves a presentation on best practice (for fire safety and scientific purposes), for work in a laminar flow cabinet, practical use of a fire extinguisher and an inter-active, self-study, CD-ROM-based, fire-awareness course devised by Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade, 'In the Line of Fire'.

Professor Powell was appointed Chairman of SCRI's Health, Safety and Welfare Committee. The Safety Co-ordinator was a member of two BBSRC/SABRI teams inspecting health and safety management at the Macaulay and Moredun Research Institutes. He also attended the BBSRC/SABRI Safety Officers 6-monthly meetings and chaired the two-monthly meetings of

SCRI internal safety advisors and SCRI safety post-holders. The two-year cycle of inspections of the BBSRC/SABRI Institutes will recommence in 2002.



Defibrillator training of SCRI first-aiders with Red Cross trainer, Peter Carver (centre).

A Survivalink portable defibrillator has been purchased and a team of SCRI first-aiders has been trained in its use by the Red Cross. It is an 'intelligent' machine which can determine from a casualty's heart rhythm whether a defibrillating shock is required. The machine will not deliver a shock if it is not appropriate but will continue to monitor the casualty's heart rhythm, providing vital data which can be down-loaded by the emergency services to assist with treatment.

There were no serious injuries sustained by any member of staff at work and no RIDDOR-reportable incidents occurred during the year.