

## Health & Safety

M. De, Maine

Health and safety training carried out this year included training in the use of ladders for the maintenance department and glasshouse group. Use of ladders is kept to an absolute minimum on the Institute but training in checks of portable access equipment and precautions to take are essential if use of a ladder is unavoidable. Training in fire safety and use of laminar flow cabinets continued as new staff start work. This training has been found to be very beneficial in reducing fire hazards on the Institute.



Emergency Breathing Apparatus team practice anti-spillage drills.

An asbestos survey was carried out by a licensed contractor. The locations of asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) were recorded. Most of the asbestos present was white asbestos but there was a small amount of brown. Some material, including all the brown asbestos, was identified as requiring extraction and this

has been carried out. Extraction by licensed contractor took place at week-ends to avoid disrupting scientific work. Following extraction the air was cleaned of any dust, tested and certified as safe by another, independent, specialist contractor before the rooms affected were re-commissioned. The remaining ACMs are to be labelled and inspected regularly for damage.

A new road traffic system has been introduced on advice from a traffic consultant. This involves restricting traffic to one-way only on certain roads on the site and is designed to avoid potential accidents between vehicles and pedestrians.

A stress survey was carried out by means of a work analysis questionnaire, devised by the Health Education Board Scotland (HEBS), sent to all staff. Analysis of the results indicated there were no major problems but further work will be carried out to determine whether further training for managers, in stress awareness for example, should be introduced. The Institute has appointed harassment contacts and developed links with the University of Dundee's counselling service. Any SCRI member of staff can arrange to see a counsellor at Institute expense.

SCRI has signed up for the Scotland's Health at Work (SHAW) Bronze Award under which the Institute undertakes to encourage all aspects of healthy working. There have been poster displays on smoking, mental well-being and healthy eating. A number of activities such as five-a-side football, badminton and yoga have been organized by members of staff for lunch-time or after work.