

# Safetyline 47

## H & S UPDATE NOVEMBER 2004

The NRPB's website has the results of its first 20 surveys on **radio waves in the vicinity of mobile phone base stations and radio and TV transmitters**. The surveys include measurements near homes, workplaces, schools, and public utilities in various locations in the UK. The NRPB found exposures from mobile phone are typically less than 0.01 percent of international guidelines at most locations accessible to the public. The NRPB Chairman said: ".people worry about the radio waves from mobile phone masts and we want to provide as much clear information as we can on this topic." The first 20 survey results can be viewed at: [www.nrpb.org/radiation\\_topics/emf/index.htm](http://www.nrpb.org/radiation_topics/emf/index.htm).

~~~~~  
*Liverpool University had a **catastrophic failure of a bench-top micro-centrifuge Model Labnet Force12**. The plastic rotor disintegrated whilst spinning at 13,000rpm. The lid closure mechanism failed, the lid flew open and pieces of rotor hit a laboratory worker causing severe bruising to the abdomen. A Labnet Force 16 micro-centrifuge rotor has previously disintegrated while in use. Liverpool has withdrawn all Labnet micro-centrifuges from use. In the light of this report, Labnet models 12 and 16 should be removed from use in Sheffield University too, **or** thoroughly checked by the manufacturer prior to further use and/ or suspect parts replaced by more robust parts. It is likely that stress fractures would not be readily visible to the naked eye and thus are unlikely to be identified by a visual check.*

*[Labnet have issued a statement that the Force 12 is no longer in production or available and that current designs are more robust and unlikely to fail provided they are used in accordance with the centrifuge instruction manual. The main problem with older models appears to be failure of rotors made of "Ultem" plastic when not used in accordance with the instructions provided. They have had no reports of failures of rotors made of aluminium, steel or fibreglass.]*

~~~~~  
Dell is recalling a wide range of Notebook **PC Power adapters** sold with notebooks and as standalone accessories. The fault may cause the unit to catch fire or split open revealing live electrical connections. The affected models should not be used - contact Dell for further advice. The adapters were bundled with Dell's Precision M40' Latitude CP, CPi, CPiA, CPtC, CPiR, CPxH, CPTV, CS, CSx, CPxJ, CPtS, C500, C510, C540, C600, C610, C800, C805, C810, V700, C-Dock and C-Port; and Inspiron 2500, 2600, 2650, 3700, 3800, 4000, 4100, 4150, 5000, 7500, 7550, 8000, 8100, Advanced Port Replicator and Docking Station. The adapters were shipped between September 1998 and February 2002 inclusive. The words 'Dell' and 'P/N 9364U', 'P/N 7832D' or 'P/N 4983D' are printed on the back of the adapters, as is "Delta Electronics" of Thailand the manufacturer of the adapters. For more information: [www.theregister.co.uk/2004/10/08/dell\\_ac\\_adaptor\\_recall/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/10/08/dell_ac_adaptor_recall/) or [www.delladapterprogram.com/](http://www.delladapterprogram.com/)

~~~~~  
*For a copy of an article describing a typical risk assessment for **working at height**, please contact "safety@sheffield" or telephone Dionne on 26198 or Debbie on 27466.*

~~~~~  
The **Local Rules for Ionising Radiations** has been updated and can be found in the Codes of Practice and Guidance Notes section of the Safety Services web site. **New guidance for Laser and UV radiation** users has recently been placed on our web site in the Guidance section..

~~~~~  
*If you are contacted by a friend or relative about an **off-campus emergency**, for which the emergency services should attend but haven't been summoned, ringing 999 will connect you to the University Control Room, who WILL deal with off-site incidents because there is no direct 999 facility. However, when speaking to Control Room staff you must be precise about the nature of the incident and the location where the emergency service is required.*

~~~~~  
The numbers of staff and postgraduate students undertaking **fire training** so far this year has reduced compared to 2003. Please make every effort to attend a lecture or do the web package as we are all obliged to undertake this training annually. You may find the web training package does not operate properly with Microsoft XP as "Pop-ups" is disabled as a default, so you will need to enable "pop-ups" to carry out the training.