

> News

News

News and events

> News archive

> News Centre

> Events

> Picture downloads

> Experts directory

> Hot topics

> NTU in the news

Thursday 10 December 2009

Origami could help to improve health and safety



Completed origami cube for improving people's understanding of COSHH

Scientists at Nottingham Trent University are investigating the benefits that origami – the ancient art of paper folding – can bring in helping to improve awareness of important health and safety procedures for the handling of hazardous chemicals.

According to statistics published by the Health and Safety Executive in 2008, accidents related to the handling of hazardous chemicals are ranked as one of the main causes of reported injuries in UK businesses. Research has shown that the high number of incidents are often attributed to a lack of understanding amongst employees of the rules and regulations for the 'Control of Substances Hazardous to Health' (COSHH).

In 2005 Nottingham Trent University scientists devised a method of using origami models to help explain chemical bonds to school pupils. PhD researcher Laura Newton has now developed this method to produce a range of origami kits to explain information relating to COSHH.

Initial trials have been carried out which require the testers to follow instructions to fold six origami 'modules' to create a cube. If constructed correctly, each side of the cube depicts a hazard warning, an example of a corresponding chemical and an example of an everyday application of that chemical. The feedback has revealed that the origami kits do help to improve awareness and the understanding of COSHH.

Laura's findings have since been published as an article in the Journal of Chemical Health and Safety and she now hopes to make the educational origami kits available as a national training resource for businesses throughout the UK.

Laura said: "I think the origami kits have real potential. They display really important information in an innovative way. Testing is still in its early stages but it seems by getting people to engage in the process in this way means they are more likely to understand COSHH."

Dr James Davis from Nottingham Trent University's School of Science and Technology - one of the original researchers to develop the origami method as a chemistry teaching tool - said: "Laura's work has helped to address a very real problem within the workplace. We're all very proud to see her ideas being recognised for the benefits that they can bring.

“ I think the origami kits have real potential. They display really important information in an innovative way. ”

Laura Newton

Search news

Keyword

Search

Top stories

> [University expertise could help save the pharmaceutical industry millions of pounds](#)

16 December 2009 | News and Events

> [Memorial design is built for Jewish community](#)

10 December 2009 | News and Events

> [Lessons in values for trainee teachers](#)

10 December 2009 | News and Events

> [Seeing heat could prompt energy conservation](#)

8 December 2009 | News and Events

Notes to editors:

Press enquiries please contact Matt Wallace, Press Officer, on telephone 0115 848 8785, or via [email](#); or Therese Easom, Press and Media Relations Manager, on Telephone 0115 848 8774, or via [email](#).

[↑ Back to top](#)

[Printable version](#)

[✉ Email to a friend](#)

Social bookmark this page with: [Delicious](#) [Digg](#) [Facebook](#) [Reddit](#) [StumbleUpon](#) [?](#)

[About NTU](#) | [Academic Schools](#) | [IS](#) | [Library](#) | [NOW](#) | [Institutional Repository](#) | [Courses](#) | [Finding us](#) | [Academic standards](#) | [Enrolment](#) | [Online payment](#) | [News & events](#)

[Statements](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Sitemap](#)

Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham, NG1 4BU
Telephone: +44 (0)115 941 8418. [Contact us](#)