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1. Mark Your Calendars: CUSC Open Forum Meeting

The Chancellor’s University Safety Committee (CUSC) will host an Open Forum meeting on April 18, 2012. The campus community is encouraged at these times to attend, share concerns, or just observe the workings of the CUSC.

The CUSC is a UNL committee established to assist the Chancellor by making recommendations on methods to reduce safety hazards at UNL. The campus community may contact the CUSC Chair at any time with safety questions or concerns and attend quarterly meetings.

The CUSC charter, as well as links to CUSC Chair, upcoming Agenda, previous meeting Minutes and more, are available online. Plan to attend the next Open Forum meeting from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. at East Campus Union!

Resources:

- CUSC information (Meetings, Agenda, Minutes, Link to email Chair)
  http://ehs.unl.edu/committees/#cusc

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) For YOU

EHS has launched a new web-based training, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This training is “required of all UNL employees who use personal protective equipment (PPE) because they are exposed to hazards that are not fully controlled through application of engineering or work practice (administrative) controls.” What does this mean for YOU? How do you know whether you need PPE and what particular PPE you need?

The key is risk assessment. In accordance with UNL’s Injury Illness Prevention Program (IIPP), existing and potential work area hazards are to be identified and actions implemented to eliminate or minimize risk of injury, illness, property damage, environmental degradation, or other loss. The entire process (identifying hazards, minimizing risks, and managing residual hazards) is reflected in a Job Safety Assessment. A “Job Safety Assessment” is essentially a
risk assessment process. It need not be overly complicated, and consists of four practical steps:

1. Identifying safety hazards.
2. Evaluating receptors (who or what might be harmed) and the manner in which harm may be inflicted.
3. Evaluating risks, including the likelihood of an adverse event and the magnitude of consequences.
4. Selecting appropriate controls to eliminate hazards and/or minimize risk.

The result of a risk assessment is selection of appropriate controls, including PPE, to reduce risk. EHS provides a Safe Operating Procedure (SOP), Job Safety Assessments, to assist supervisors with understanding the process and developing an assessment to plan safe work conduct for employees. Once the appropriate PPE has been selected, employees must be trained in the proper selection, use, and care of assigned PPE. The EHS web-based training module provides a starting point for training. Once employees have completed this module, then supervisors must provide supplemental training on specific PPE that has been assigned.

The EHS Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training does not cover certain specific program areas such as use of respirators or hearing protectors, PPE for persons who work on live electrical systems, PPE for persons who may be exposed to biohazards, or Fall Arrest Systems. PPE for use in these situations is covered in specific program training modules.

Complete EHS Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training today and review with your supervisor any PPE you have been assigned/are using.

Resources:

- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#PPE](http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#PPE)
- **Job Safety Assessments SOP**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-JSA.pdf](http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-JSA.pdf)
- **Hearing Conservation Program**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/programdocuments/Hearing_Conservation_Program.pdf](http://ehs.unl.edu/programdocuments/Hearing_Conservation_Program.pdf)
- **Bloodborne Pathogens**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#BBP](http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#BBP)
- **Biosafety Basics**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#BioBasics](http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#BioBasics)
- **Biosafety in the BSL-2 Laboratory**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#BSL2](http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#BSL2)
- **Mobile Aerial Lift**
  [training (fall arrest system basics)]
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#MobileAerialLift](http://ehs.unl.edu/linetraining/#MobileAerialLift)
- **Fall Protection SOPs**
  [http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/#fall](http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/#fall)
3. Stormwater and Groundwater Dewatering at Construction Sites

Work involving excavations is regularly conducted at UNL construction sites. At times, it may be necessary to dewater (remove water from) an excavation due to stormwater or groundwater entering the excavation. As a general rule, all dewatering activities involving groundwater or stormwater must be authorized by a permit issued by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ).

Dewatering Permit Options:

- **Groundwater:**
  - Why do we need a permit for dewatering groundwater? Because there is a potential that the groundwater could be contaminated as a result of nearby spills or leaks. All dewatering activities involving groundwater must be authorized by NDEQ pursuant to a General NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System administered by the Environmental Protection Agency) Permit Authorizing Dewatering Discharges (NDEQ General Permit Number NEG671000). Contractors conducting dewatering activities involving groundwater are responsible to obtain and comply with the terms of the permit.

- **Stormwater:**
  - If the dewatering is conducted at a site that is currently covered by a General NPDES Permit Authorizing Storm Water Discharges from Construction Sites to Waters of the State of Nebraska (General NPDES Permit Number NER11000), then dewatering can be conducted under the terms of that permit so long as the following conditions are met:
    1. Water to be removed from an excavation is solely comprised of stormwater (no groundwater).
    2. Water removed from the excavation is not pumped directly offsite or into storm drains or waters of the State (e.g., must use Best Management Practices, BMPs).
    3. The construction site storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) specifically addresses dewatering activities.
    4. The construction site SWPPP includes BMPs that are appropriate for concentrated flow from dewatering.
  - If dewatering is done at a construction site that is not covered by the General NPDES Permit Authorizing Storm Water Discharges from Construction Sites to Waters of the State of Nebraska, then a General NPDES Permit Authorizing Dewatering Discharge must be obtained. This is generally the case with construction sites that are less than 1 acre.

If you have questions about any dewatering activities at UNL or other stormwater concerns, you may contact James Lange, Environmental Specialist, at 402-472-2212 or jlane4@unl.edu.
4. Will You Be “Caught In” or “Struck By”? 

Don't become a statistic in the quarterly UNL Injury Incident report! In 2011, 311 injury incidents were reported by UNL employees. Of these, 33% were categorized as being “Caught in/Crushed by” or “Struck by/Against.” Most of these injuries occurred because the improper positioning of the equipment or worker, improper tool or improper usage of a tool, inattention, and failure to use the appropriate PPE in an appropriate manner.

What are some general recommendations to avoid injury from being caught in/struck by/other contact? Workers should:

- Remain aware of their bodily position in relation to potential hazards when working with equipment. Workers should inform their supervisor if equipment is positioned in such a manner as to cause a hazard.
- Know the proper tools for the task at hand and ALWAYS use the proper tool, even if that means delaying the task to retrieve the proper tool. Once the proper tool has been selected, use it in the manner intended by the manufacturer.
- Maintain a general awareness of your surroundings and avoid sudden movements. Are others in your path of movement? Are there obstacles on/in the walking surface or path? Focus on the task at hand.
- ALWAYS use available engineering controls and use them in accordance with manufacturer’s directions.
- ALWAYS wear all provided PPE as determined by Job Safety Assessments and per training on what/when/how to use PPE. Complete the web-based Personal Protective Equipment training and review necessary PPE with your supervisor.
5. **AED Recall**

The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a recall of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) which include:

- Powerheart 9300A, 9300E, 9300P, 9390A and 9390E
- CardioVive 92532 and 92533
- CardioLife 9200G and 9231
- GE Responder and Responder Pro
- Nihon-Kohden AEDs

Visit the Cardiac Science company site to conduct a serial number search to determine if an AED in your area is affected by this recall.

The affected AEDs were manufactured and distributed from July 1, 2011 through December 30, 2011. These AEDs contain a defective component that may fail unexpectedly. If the component were to fail during a rescue attempt, the AED may not deliver defibrillation therapy. Contact the manufacturer to return the device for repair.

5. **NEW Training!**

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  [http://ehs.unl.edu/onlinetraining/#PPE](http://ehs.unl.edu/onlinetraining/#PPE)

This training is required of all UNL employees who use personal protective equipment (PPE) because they are exposed to hazards that are not fully controlled through application of engineering or work practice (administrative) controls.

**Remember...SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE!**

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