

**In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv, February 19, 2015:**

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## **1. Two Upcoming Safety Events**

**MARCH:** The Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) will host the spring **CUSC Open Forum meeting** at Nebraska East Union 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. The campus community is encouraged to attend to share concerns or just observe the workings of the CUSC.

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

The CUSC charter, as well as links to CUSC Chair, upcoming agenda and meeting dates/locations, previous meeting minutes, the current year's goal and more, are available online. Plan to attend the upcoming Open Forum meeting!

**APRIL:** "**Safety Culture: Perspectives and Practices,**" the Spring Laboratory Safety Colloquium co-sponsored by EHS and the Office of Research and Economic Development, will be held on April 15, 2015, at Nebraska City Union. This colloquium will feature Sean Kaufman, respected educator, consultant and behavioral solutions expert. Sean has worked with the United States Centers for Disease Control, Emory University, National Institutes of Health, World Health Organization, and many other organizations nationally and internationally. This colloquium will be applicable to everyone, especially to laboratory researchers, PIs, safety committee chairs, department heads and deans.

RSVPs are required for this event. You may indicate your intention to attend through an online reservation site:

<http://research.unl.edu/events/event2.php?eventID=1400> . Due to venue space limitations you are asked to cancel your RSVP should your plans change. This colloquium will be live-streamed through the EHS web site as well as recorded for future viewing.

## Resources

- Chancellor's University Safety Committee <http://ehs.unl.edu/chancellors-university-safety-committee-cusc#cusc>
- EHS Safety Colloquium Series site <http://ehs.unl.edu/training/Colloquium>
- Office of Research and Economic Development Safety Colloquium site <http://research.unl.edu/laboratorysafetycolloquium/>

## 2. Promoting an Academic Safety Culture, Recommendation #6

Recently the National Research Council (NRC), the principal operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, completed work on a publication titled “**Safe Science: Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Chemical Research.**” The recommendations within this report apply beyond chemical laboratories/research.

The shift away from mere compliance and toward promoting a strong, positive safety culture has already yielded benefits in other industries. The hope is that the NRC recommendations help move academic institutions toward the adoption of a culture of safety that goes beyond inspections, standard operating procedures, and safety plans, all with the ultimate goal of protecting the lives and health of the campus community.

Recommendations from this report will be reviewed one-by-one in each successive issue of the EHS listserv. The sixth recommendation is:

*Department Chairs should provide a mechanism for creating a robust safety collaboration between researchers, principal investigators, and environmental health and safety personnel.*

Except for individual research faculty, department chairs are closest in academic hierarchy to the actual conduct of research. Gathering information about department faculty and staff safety backgrounds, viewpoints, or abilities is one method of fostering a departmental safety culture. Establishing and supporting departmental safety committees is another action department chairs can take to reinforce and strengthen safety practices and attitudes within a department. Other actions to consider include a standing agenda for faculty meetings specifically for safety, and consideration of safety performance in regular faculty and staff reviews.

Safety is a priority at UNL. Make sure it is a priority in your individual work location, laboratory or otherwise. To this end, consider adopting the following as your personal ethic:

- **Value safety:** Safety is an integral part of what one does, its automatic, and it does not change its priorities- it is never questioned and never compromised.
- **Work safely:** One continues to learn about safety, learns to recognize hazards, assesses the risks of hazards, manages the risks of hazards, and prepares to handle emergencies.

- **Prevent at-risk behavior:** One does not cut corners or bypass safety measures and shares this information with others, as needed.
- **Promote safety:** One encourages and acknowledges others for working safely.
- **Accept responsibility for safety:** One takes steps to work safely, setting a positive example for others, and being accountable for safety.

## Resources

- NRC free download/read online: “**Safe Science: Promoting a Culture of Safety in Academic Chemical Research (2014)**”  
[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=18706&utm\\_exp=4418042-5.krRTDpXJQISoXLpdo-1Ynw.0&utm\\_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww8.nationalacademies.org%2Fonpinews%2Fnewsitem.aspx%3FRecordID%3D18706](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18706&utm_exp=4418042-5.krRTDpXJQISoXLpdo-1Ynw.0&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww8.nationalacademies.org%2Fonpinews%2Fnewsitem.aspx%3FRecordID%3D18706)
- American Chemical Society, Safety Practices and Recommendations (Publications):  
<http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/about/governance/committees/chemicalsafety/safetypractices.html>
- American Chemical Society, pages 3-6, “**Increasing Safety Awareness: An Academic Imperative**”:  
<http://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/about/governance/committees/training/cptnewsletter/committee-on-professional-training-summer-2014.pdf>
- American Chemical Society “**Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories**”  
<http://www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/about/governance/committees/chemicalsafety/identifying-and-evaluating-hazards-in-research-laboratories-draft.pdf>
- EHS **Job Safety Assessment** SOP <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-JSA.pdf>
- EHS Virtual Manual: <https://scsapps.unl.edu/VirtualManual/>

## 3. Do YOU Have An Up-to-date Emergency Plan?

Does your department/area/facility have an Emergency Action Plan? If so, has your Emergency Action Plan been reviewed in the past 6 - 12 months? The purpose of an emergency action plan is to facilitate and organize employer and employee actions during workplace emergencies. Well-developed emergency plans and proper employee training, such that employees understand their roles and responsibilities within the plan, will result in fewer and less severe employee injuries and less collateral damage to the ongoing research or facilities during emergencies.

Putting together an emergency action plan that deals with those issues specific to your worksite/building is not difficult. It involves describing how employees should respond to different types of emergencies, taking into account your specific worksite layout, structural features, and emergency systems.

The UNL Emergency Planning and Preparedness web site contains a template (“Faculty, Staff & Depts.” Tab - “Have a Plan” section). Assistance is available upon request from Mark Robertson, UNL Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

([preparedness@unl.edu](mailto:preparedness@unl.edu)). While the template is designed for developing a Building Emergency Action Plan, it can readily be modified to develop a facility or specific area action plan.

Once developed, emergency action plans should be reviewed at least once a year to determine whether there have been changes in personnel or the area/facility that necessitate changes to the plan.

## Resources

- **Emergency Planning & Preparedness: Building Emergency Action Plan**  
<http://emergency.unl.edu/Building%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan%20Template.pdf>

## 4. NEW Safety Posters Available

EHS is pleased to announce three new laboratory safety posters joining the list of posters available at no charge in whatever quantities you need! These posters are professionally printed on card stock and serve as eye-catching reminders on critical aspects of working safely.

New poster topics include:

- **The Globally Harmonized System (GHS).** This poster is a key to the GHS chemical hazard classification system showing each of the pictograms with the appropriate hazard word designations. This poster is applicable beyond a laboratory setting to include any work /teaching area where chemicals are used or stored.
- **EHS Biosafety Program: What's in your freezer?** This poster serves as a reminder to clean out freezer storage areas while conducting the regular update of inventory on hand.
- **No PPE outside of the lab!** A friendly reminder for workers and students to be considerate of others and doff personal protective equipment, including lab coats and gloves, prior to leaving the workspace.

View posters and additional information at: <http://ehs.unl.edu/safety-posters> .  
Contact EHS today to order posters: 402-472-4925 or [ehs@unl.edu](mailto:ehs@unl.edu) .

## 5. NEW Series: Safety Shorts

This is the first of a new series to feature a short safety resource each month. Each issue will provide a link to one or more resource(s). Regardless of format - video, PDF, other - these short features cover various topics and are provided in no particular order of importance. These "safety shorts" are intended as resources for safety committees, as well as individual laboratories/work areas.

The first resource that we are featuring is the “Dow Lab Safety Academy,” which is a compilation of short videos designed to enhance awareness of safety practices in academic research laboratories.

There are four modules:

- **Orientation & Training.** Introduces the viewer to safe laboratory practices with some basic understanding of key principles of behavior within the laboratory setting. (10 videos, including **Office Ergonomics**)
- **Specialized Topics.** Introduces the viewer to useful and practical information to enhance their understanding of laboratory hazards and best practices for reducing the hazards. (9 videos)
- **Plan, Evaluate, Execute.** Includes information on methods for evaluating laboratory hazards as well as best practices for mitigating risks. (9 videos)
- **Sustainable Safety Culture.** Includes information on methods for building and sustaining a strong safe culture in the laboratory. (10 videos)

NOTE: Resources are provided for informational purposes only. Publication does not in any way endorse a particular company or product or affect current UNL policies and procedures.

## Resources

- Dow “Lab Safety Academy” <http://safety.dow.com/en>
- Dow Lab Safety Modules <http://safety.dow.com/en/safety-courses>

## 6. Two Incidents: How To Avoid Injury

- **Navigating during icy/snowy weather.** Recently a person sustained a cut and bruising on/around their knee due to a fall while traversing an icy/snowy path. This occurred as snow was still falling. Before walking outdoors in wintry conditions, be sure to review the helpful tips provided in a recent listserv article (see Resources section below). Look around and use a path/area that has been cleared even if that results in a longer walk than normal under dry conditions.
- **Wood Shop injury.** A person was working in a wood shop on campus when they were hit with a staple from a pneumatic stapler in use by someone else working near them. Extreme caution should be exercised when using any power tools. Tools should be used as recommended by the manufacturer and in such a manner as to not endanger either yourself or others working in the area. Workers should maintain situational/positional awareness in order to keep themselves away out of the path of potential hazards of their own making as well as those created by others working in close proximity.

## Resources

- EHS Listserv 11/5/14 "Walking and Working: Ice and Cold"  
[http://ehs.unl.edu/ls\\_2014-11-05.pdf](http://ehs.unl.edu/ls_2014-11-05.pdf)
- ***Hand and Portable Power Tool Safety*** Safe Operating Procedure  
[http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-hand\\_portable\\_power\\_tool\\_safety.pdf](http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-hand_portable_power_tool_safety.pdf)

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

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