

**In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv,  
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## **1. Fall Safety Colloquia - November 11,2015**

Two colloquia, co-sponsored by EHS and the Office of Research and Economic Development, are scheduled for November 11, 2015. These two distinct colloquia each feature a speaker from Cintas, an industry leader in flame-resistant protective clothing for both laboratory and trades workers. Each colloquium will be presented twice to maximize accessibility:

- Protective Apparel for Laboratory Safety
  - City Campus Union 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Repeated at East Campus Union 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- NFPA 70E Electrical Safety Protective Apparel
  - Auditorium in Facilities Management Shops (FMS) Building  
11 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Repeated 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Plan to attend the Fall Safety Colloquium applicable to your work. RSVPs are not required. Parking arrangements in specific areas for attendees at the Auditorium in Facilities Management Shops (FMS) Building sessions are in development. Parking maps for that location will be posted on the EHS web site as the date approaches.

### **Resources**

- EHS Safety Colloquium Series <http://ehs.unl.edu/training/Colloquium>

## **2. Don't Get Bit! (Vector-Borne Diseases)**

It's that time of year when there is wet weather and hot weather alternating in the transition from summer to fall. That weather pattern creates standing water which is the perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and other insects. With an increase in flying insect populations comes an increased risk of exposure to the diseases that these insects can carry.

Getting bit by mosquitos or ticks can result in your contracting a vector-borne disease such as West Nile Virus (mosquitos), Lyme Disease (ticks) and Rocky

Mountain Spotted Fever (ticks). These diseases are called “Vector-Borne Diseases” because they are carried by an insect or “vector.” Vectors are living organisms that can transmit infectious diseases between humans or from animals to humans. Many of these vectors are bloodsucking insects, which ingest disease-producing microorganisms during a blood meal from an infected host (human or animal) and later inject it into a new host during a subsequent blood meal.

Problems associated with vector-borne diseases:

- They are hard to predict, prevent or control
- Only a few have vaccines
- Some vectors are notoriously hard to kill and develop resistance to insecticides
- Almost all vector-borne viruses or bacteria are zoonotic, meaning they live in animals as well as in humans.

To avoid getting “bit,” follow these prevention tips:

- **Wear insect repellent.** Yes! It is safe. When used as directed, insect repellent is the BEST way to protect against insect bites—even children and pregnant women should protect themselves. Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer lasting protection.
  - DEET. Products containing DEET include Cutter, OFF!, Skintastic.
  - Picaridin (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and icaridin). Products containing picaridin include Cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, and Autan (outside the United States).
  - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD. Products containing OLE include Repel and Off! Botanicals.
  - IR3535. Products containing IR3535 include Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition and SkinSmart.
- **Cover up.** When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- **Keep mosquitoes outside.** Use air conditioning or make sure that you repair and use window/door screens.
- **Avoid.** Avoid areas prone to insect infestation and take action to eliminate or treat potential breeding grounds.

## Resources

- Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (NeDHHS) (phone: 402-471-2937)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (email: [dvbd@cdc.gov](mailto:dvbd@cdc.gov) or phone: 970-221-6400)
- CDC Prevent Mosquito Bites <http://www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes/>
- CDC Insect Repellent Use & Safety <http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/faq/repellent.html>
- CDC Lyme Disease Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/LymeDisease/>
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever <http://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/>
- NeDHHS WNV (West Nile Virus) Surveillance <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/wnv.aspx>

- General Information on WNV  
[http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/puh\\_epi\\_wnv\\_general.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/puh_epi_wnv_general.aspx)

### 3. National Farm Safety Week - September 20-26, 2015

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS has declared September 20-26, 2015, *National Farm Safety and Health Week 2015*. The purpose of this organization in general and the week in particular is to call attention to the hazards and risks of farm work and promote safe and healthy practices to mitigate those hazards.

The theme for 2015 is “Ag Safety is not just a slogan...it’s a lifestyle.” There are daily webinars from 12 – 1 p.m. CDT highlighting various aspects of Ag Safety.

- Monday, 9/21/15, *Rural Roadway Safety*
- Tuesday, 9/22/15, *Confined Spaces – Manure Pit Entry*
- Wednesday, 9/23/15, *Harvest Season: Are Children Safe?*
- Thursday, 9/24/15, *AgriSafe: Healthier Is Here*
- Friday, 9/25/15, *Tractor Safety*

Webinars can be accessed from the NECAS *National Farm Safety and Health Week 2015* link:

<http://www.necasag.org/aboutnecas/nationalfarmsafetyandhealthweek2015/>. From this area of the NECAS web site you can access a number of other topical webinars and an extensive list of resources on various agricultural safety topics.

EHS provides resources on a variety of topics relating to safety while conducting agricultural operations under the Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) heading **Ag Safety**. Topics include: Nebraska Guide G1770 Cleaning Pesticide Application Equipment, All Terrain Vehicles, Animal Feeding Operations, Grain Bin Safety, Harvest Safety, Outdoor Power Equipment Safety, Sharps Use and Handling with Livestock, Skid Steer Loaders, and Tractor Safety. Other SOPs relevant to agricultural operations are found in the categories **Heat Stress, Landscape, Shops,** and **General/Other**.

#### Resources

- EHS **Ag Safety** Safe Operating Procedures  
<http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/ag-safety>
- EHS SOP listing <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop>
- NECAS Farm and Ranch Safety Resources  
<http://www.necasag.org/aboutnecas/resources/>
- NECAS Farm and Ranch Safety Webinars  
<http://www.necasag.org/aboutnecas/webinars/>

## 4. Near Miss...or Near Hit?

A “near miss” is an incident where no property was damaged and no personal injury was sustained, but where, given a slight shift in time or position, damage and/or injury or illness easily could have occurred. Near miss reporting is an important step to mitigating previously unidentified hazards to prevent future injury or property loss. Thinking of a “near miss” as a “near hit” might better stress the potential seriousness of such events.

A tool for reporting near misses/near hits is provided on the EHS webpage, ***Near-Miss/Close Call Incident Reporting System***. EHS also provides a second tool, called the ***Student Injury/Illness Reporter***, which is another means of identifying previously unidentified hazards. The Chancellor’s University Safety Committee (CUSC), as part of their 2015-16 goals, is promoting awareness of the need for near miss and student injury reporting. The CUSC and EHS ask for your help to encourage use of these reporting tools and to assure others that such reporting will be praised rather than reprimanded.

To help publicize the EHS tools for online reporting of near misses and student injuries EHS has developed a poster suitable for display in work areas:



Also available is a two-sided informational business card size handout which employees are encouraged to distribute widely within their sphere of influence:



Order your FREE copies today by contacting [ehs@unl.edu](mailto:ehs@unl.edu) or 402-472-4925 with your name, campus mailing address, and quantity desired. Bookmark the links below in your browser for ease of access.

## Resources

- **Near-Miss/Close Call Incident Reporting System**  
<https://scsapps.unl.edu/EHSNearMissReporter/>
- **Student Injury/Illness Reporter**  
<https://scsapps.unl.edu/studentinjuryillnessReporter/>

## 5. Safety Shorts

This series features links to short safety resource(s) each month. Regardless of format - video, PDF, other - these short features cover various topics and are intended as resources for safety committees, faculty/staff/students, as well as individual laboratories/work areas.

- **“Don’t Walk on By” Safety Music Video** (PIBTV, duration 3:44 minutes). Video shows a variety of workplace near misses followed by the hazard mitigation steps. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD1e3uc\\_eQE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD1e3uc_eQE)
- **Tractor Safety Series** (Mike Williams, Parts 1-9, duration varying). There are several videos in the series, each reviewing some aspect of tractor safety. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UU7RxU5wxkJydd-sBY-E7NQ>

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.

## 6. Supplier Showcase - October 20, 2015

Make plans to stop by the Chancellor’s University Safety Committee (CUSC) booth at the October 20, 2015, Supplier Showcase sponsored by UNL Procurement. This event is designed to provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to talk to a variety of companies and network/share ideas. The CUSC booth focus this year will be Near Miss/Close Call and Student Injury reporting, with materials on hand to take back to your workplace and share with your peers. This effort is to further the CUSC goal for 2015-2016:

*Develop, review, maintain lines of safety communication with the purpose of engaging the campus community, in particular by encouraging all to recognize and report “near misses.”*

## Resources

- Chancellor’s University Safety Committee <http://ehs.unl.edu/chancellors-university-safety-committee-cusc#cusc>

## 7. Revised Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- ***Ergonomics Considerations for Offices*** SOP  
[http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-ergo\\_office.pdf](http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-ergo_office.pdf)  
Updated to include information on portable computing devices.
- ***Hot Plates, Drying Ovens, & Other Heating Devices*** SOP  
[http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-hotplates\\_ovens.pdf](http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-hotplates_ovens.pdf)  
Information added regarding the melting points of plastic and the dangers associated with drying plastic in a drying oven.

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

### **Environmental Health and Safety**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
3630 East Campus Loop  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0824  
(402) 472-4925  
<http://ehs.unl.edu>