

In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv, February 23, 2015:

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1. Electrical Safety for Everyone

The spring colloquium, co-sponsored by EHS and the Office of Research and Economic Development, will be on Wednesday, March 30, 2016. Kevin Booker, Chief State Electrical Inspector of Nebraska, will talk about electrical hazards and mitigation as applies across all areas of UNL. This event is applicable to anyone.

- East Campus Union @ 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- Repeated at Hamilton Hall from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

RSVPs are NOT required. For further information or to suggest future colloquium topics contact Elizabeth (Betsy) Howe, ehowe2@unl.edu or (402) 472-5488.

Resources

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

2. Ladders Really ARE Dangerous

In January 2016, a facilities employee at another university fell from a 6-foot ladder resulting in a serious head injury which led to death within a few days. The employee was standing on the top rung of a ladder when they fell. According to the World Health Organization, each year in the United States there are more than 164,000 emergency room-treated injuries from ladders and 300 deaths that are caused by falls from ladders. Most ladder deaths are due to falls of 10 feet or less. Injuries from ladder falls can be severe but are preventable.

To prevent ladder falls, employers should:

1. Plan the work to reduce or eliminate the need for using ladders by applying safety-in-design and constructability principles to finish as much of the work as possible on the ground;

2. Provide alternative, safer equipment for extended work at elevation, such as aerial lifts, supported scaffolds, or mast climbing work platforms;
3. Provide properly selected and thoroughly inspected ladders, that are well-matched to employee weight, task, and location;
4. When applicable, provide proper accessories to supplement safe ladder use; and
5. Provide adequate ladder safety information and training for employees.

Familiarity and compliance with the provisions of safety regulations, such as recognizing ladder types and conditions, and using ladder positioning and other safe ladder practices, are crucial to preventing injuries from ladder falls.

To facilitate ladder safety, the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) is developing innovative technologies to complement safe ladder use. One such tool is a mobile application designed to improve extension and step ladder safety. The app provides user-friendly ladder safety tools, information, reference materials, and training resources, all available whenever and wherever the individual needs them. The app is available in Spanish and English and may be downloaded free-of-charge for Apple (iPhone) and Android devices.

Resources

- EHS **Ladder Safety** Safe Operating Procedure (SOP)
<http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-ladder.pdf>
- **Portable Ladder Safety** web-based training <http://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#PortableLadder>
- **American Ladder Institute** <http://www.americanladderinstitute.org/>
- OSHA Quick Card, “Portable Ladder Safety”
https://www.osha.gov/Publications/portable_ladder_qc.html
- NIOSH Ladder Safety Mobile Application
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/mobileapp.html>

3. Safety Shorts – Ladder Safety

This series features links to short safety resources each month. Each of the following reviews slightly different aspects of ladder safety, but are not designed to substitute for the EHS web-based **Portable Ladder Safety** training.

- **Ladders & Falls – Safety Training Video – Prevent Fatal Accidents on Ladders** (Safety Memos, 1:58 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc8mtVt_VA8
- **Ladder Safety – Injury Preventions – The Belt Buckle Rule – Safety Training Video** (Safety Memos, 1.31 minutes)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYzfaJV292w>

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.

4. Are YOU prepared for an Emergency?

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 ongoing research or the 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 “Building Emergency Action Plan” template (“Faculty, Staff & Depts.” tab, “Have a Plan” section). Assistance is available upon request by contacting 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 a minimum of once a year and modified if 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>

5. Chancellor's University Safety Committee Invitation

The Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) will host the spring **Open Forum** meeting at Nebraska East Union 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2016. The campus community is invited 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 the list of members, upcoming agenda, meeting dates/locations, previous meeting minutes, the current year's goal and more, are available online. Plan to attend the upcoming Open Forum meeting!

Resources

- Chancellor's University Safety Committee <http://ehs.unl.edu/chancellors-university-safety-committee-cusc#cusc>
- ***Chancellor's University Safety Committee Guidelines*** SOP
<http://ehs.unl.edu/cuscguidelines.pdf>

6. Green Infrastructure Awareness Survey

Students of the Advertising/Public Relations program are working on a Senior Capstone project to evaluate Green Infrastructure Awareness at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Please invest five minutes in stormwater sustainability by taking a 12-question survey between now and March 8th:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DT5WF76>.

The survey results will be used to help guide future stormwater sustainability practices on campus. If you have questions please contact Liza Garrett, UNL's Stormwater Program Specialist: egarrett3@unl.edu or (402) 472-2212.

7. GHS – The Next Step

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) was developed by the United Nations as a way to bring into agreement the chemical regulations and standards of different countries. This system, adopted by the United States in March 2012 as a revision of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard is being phased in within the United States.

By December 1, 2015, distributors could no longer ship chemical containers with old labels. New GHS labeling communicates hazard information in a prescribed and uniform way using:

- Pictogram(s), a graphical representation of chemical hazard using a black symbol within a red diamond
- Signal words indicating relative severity of hazard, e.g. "Danger" or "Warning"
- Hazard statements, phrases describing the nature of the hazard
- Precautionary statement(s), recommended measures to minimize or prevent adverse effects of exposure

- Product identifier which is the chemical identity that matches the Safety Data Sheet
- Supplier identification to include name, address and telephone number of manufacturer or supplier

The next step is to occur by June 1, 2016, which requires employer-made signs and labels to conform to the revised standard. Now is the time to review your work place and determine whether you need to make changes to your signs, labels, or other means of communicating chemical hazards. The OSHA BRIEF, “*Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms*” provides more information on workplace labeling.

Resources

- **OSHA BRIEF Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms**
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>
- **Chemical Container Labeling SOP** <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-chemlabelguideline.pdf>

8. Safety Poster – GHS Pictograms and Hazards

EHS has developed a number of safety posters of relevance to the campus community. This poster serves as a handy reminder of the array of pictograms and hazards they depict.



Order your FREE poster(s) today. Contact ehs@unl.edu or 402-472-4925 with your name, campus mailing address, and quantity desired.

Resources

- Safety Posters <http://ehs.unl.edu/safety-posters>

Remember...SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE!

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