

In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv, March 23, 2016:

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1. Electrical Safety for Everyone - March 30

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 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Repeated at Hamilton Hall from 3:30 p.m. – 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. Eye Protection Throughout the Workplace

March is Workplace Eye Health and Safety Month. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH – part of the Centers for Disease Control or CDC) reports that about 2000 people sustain job-related eye injuries that require medical treatment every day. 10-20% of these injuries cause temporary or permanent vision loss.

The eyes may be at risk of injury from a number of circumstances - flying or dropping particles, dusts, or projectiles; chemical splashes; and exposure to UV radiation (e.g., germicidal lamps, welding/cutting, lasers, etc.). It is estimated that 90% of workplace eye injuries could have been less severe or prevented altogether by the worker wearing appropriate eye protection.

What is the best defense against an eye injury? There are four things you can do to help prevent an eye injury:

- **Know the eye hazards of your work.** The appropriate ensemble of face and eye protection must consider multiple and simultaneous hazards that may be present.
- **Minimize eye hazards through appropriate controls before starting work.** Use machine guarding, work screens, chemical fume hoods, or other engineering controls to minimize eye hazards.
- **Use the proper eye protection.** Refer to the numerous resources listed below.
- **WEAR the eye protection.** PPE does not protect your eyes when sitting on the bench!

Eyewash stations are a staple in facilities that use materials that can cause eye injury. Be sure you are aware of the location of the nearest eyewash station should the need arise for its use. Regular (i.e., weekly) flushing, as discussed in the November 4, 2015, listserv is necessary to prevent further injury from use of contaminated water.

Resources:

- Occupational Safety & Health (OSHA) **Eye Protection eTool** “Selecting Personal Protective Equipment for the Workplace”
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/eyeandface/ppe/selection.html>
- EHS SOP **Personal Protective Equipment – Eyes and Face**
http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-PPE_eyes-face.pdf
- NIOSH Eye Safety Checklist
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/pdfs/EyeSafetyChecklist.pdf>
- EHS SOP **Ultraviolet Radiation** http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-ultraviolet_rad.pdf
- EHS SOP **Welding Lens Shade & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Selection** http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-welding_lens_and_ppe.pdf
- EHS SOP **Laser Classification and General Safety Control Measures for Lasers Used in Research** <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-laserclass.pdf>
- EHS Laboratory Colloquium: Choosing (Laser) Eyewear: Questions for Optical Density Calculations http://ehs.unl.edu/training/colloquium/2009-02_Handout.pdf
- EHS Listserv, “Health Effects of Contaminated Water in Eyewash Stations,” November 4, 2015. http://ehs.unl.edu/lis_2015-11-04.pdf
- EHS Poster, Eye Injuries <http://ehs.unl.edu/safety-posters>

3. Safety Shorts – Eye Protection

This series features links to short safety resources each month. These videos talk about a variety of hazards widely applicable across the university, including field research, agricultural operations, landscape duties, maintenance operations, and more. Eye protection is not just for chemical laboratories.

- **Eye Safety – Safety Eyewear – Eye Injury Prevention** (Safety Memos, 3:30 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfAZwGZS-Hk>
- **Eye Safety** (SCF Arizona, 7:59 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMo4aJ2kRLk>

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. Disposal of Rags and Wipers

EHS recently developed a NEW Safe Operating Procedure (SOP). The purpose of the SOP, ***Disposal of Rags and Wipers***, is to describe the proper management of items intended for disposal that may be contaminated with solvents, greases, oils, trace metals, and other chemical residues. The focus is “disposable” rags, towels or wipes commonly used in shops, art areas, mechanical areas, laboratories and other spaces at UNL.

During use, small amounts of chemicals may come into contact with or contaminate items that are ordinarily discarded after each use, e.g., paper towels, cloth rags, wipers, etc. This contamination may occur as a result of accidental spills or routine cleaning of parts, painting, applying ceramic glazes, cleaning of brakes, cleaning of PVC joints, of from used oil, gasoline or solvents. Chemically contaminated rags are likely subject to certain disposal conditions and management standards and should not be disposed of with ordinary refuse. Used wipers generally should be disposed via EHS.

The best container to use for the collection of used rags is a metal safety can with a self-closing lid, particularly for rags and wipers contaminated with flammable materials. This creates a tight seal to prevent accidental ignition or spontaneous combustion. These cans also have an elevated bottom with ventilated footings to dissipate any heat build-up.

NOTE: Before using a cloth rag laundry service, notify EHS for evaluation of the possible contaminants specific to your operation. The use of a cloth rag laundry service at UNL must be approved in writing by EHS because of strict regulatory requirements that may apply depending on the situation.

For more information, refer to the SOP.

Resources

- EHS ***Disposal of Rags and Wipers*** Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-disposal_rags_wipers.pdf

5. Finding an AED

Cardiac arrest is the third leading cause of death in the United States. Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are increasingly prevalent on the UNL campus. These small, portable devices can be used safely by members of the general public to treat heart attack victims because of their simple design and ease of operation. Knowing where the nearest AED is during a medical emergency is a matter of life or death. Now there's now an app for that, PulsePoint® AED!

Lincoln/Lancaster County is using two smartphone apps, PulsePoint® AED and PulsePoint's® Respond. PulsePoint® AED allows users to find AEDs that are located near them based on their GPS location. It also allows users to add AEDs that are not currently listed in the registry. If a user sees an AED, this app allows them to check if it shows up on the map. If not, the user can simply tap the plus sign to add it. Information submitted will be verified by local authorities then the AED will be added to the map. Device purchasers are required by law to register their AED, but not everyone is aware of this requirement. This app will help to complete the registry. According to Tom Casady, Public Safety Director, there are 308 registered AEDs in Lincoln, but he believes there are more.

The PulsePoint's® Respond application ties into the emergency dispatch system. This app notifies users of public cardiac arrest calls within a quarter of a mile from their location. Since October 2015, 36 CPR alerts were received by 169 phones in Lincoln. Also, when a person calls in about a probable heart attack, dispatchers can direct that person to the nearest AED. Both apps are available as a free download for iOS or Android.

Devices can also be registered or location changes updated by going to <http://lincoln.ne.gov/City/fire/> and clicking on "AED Registration" or emailing tcasady@lincoln.ne.gov.

Resources

- PulsePoint® AED information <http://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-aed/>
- PulsePoint® Download (both AED and Respond apps available) <http://www.pulsepoint.org/download/>
- Lincoln Journal Star AT A GLANCE, Casady: Improve defibrillator database, February 27, 2016 <http://journalstar.com/search/?q=Casady%3A++Improve+defibrillator+databas e&d1=2016-02-26&d2=2016-02-29&sd=desc&l=10&nsa=eedition>
- Erin Andersen, Lincoln Journal Star, *Where is the nearest AED? Now there is an app for that*, July 17, 2015 http://journalstar.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/where-is-the-nearest-aed-now-there-is-an-app/article_c7856563-dd03-5377-9b72-6d5ad33ea883.html
- **Automatic External Defibrillators** SOP <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-AED.pdf>

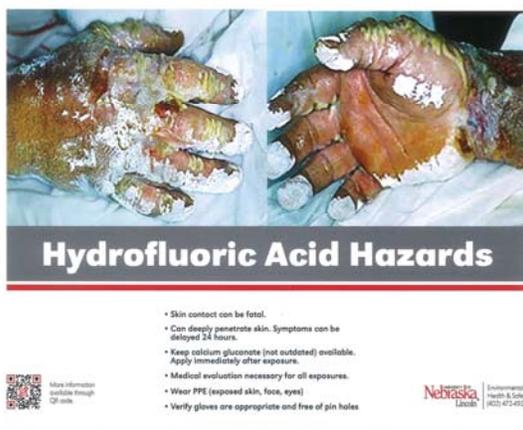
6. Are You Satisfied?

Environmental Health and Safety is committed to excellent customer service and has developed a Customer Satisfaction Survey as an easy method for the campus community to provide feedback on our services and staff. By taking a few moments to complete the survey (<http://ehs.unl.edu/survey>), you will be helping us to identify areas where we might need to focus our attention. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact Brenda Osthus, EHS Director, at 402-472-4927 or bosthus1@unl.edu if you would rather communicate outside the parameters of this survey.

7. Safety Poster – Hydrofluoric Acid Hazards

EHS has developed a number of safety posters of relevance to the campus community. This NEW poster serves to remind those working with hydrofluoric acid of a few basic safety precautions. The poster does not substitute for carefully reviewing the Safety Data Sheet and product label.



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

8. Revised Program, Training & Safe Operating Procedures

PROGRAM DOCUMENT – Respiratory Protection Program

http://ehs.unl.edu/programdocuments/respiratory_protection.pdf

Minor changes made for consistency in reference to distribution of the EHS SOP on voluntary use and to clarify that UNL is not responsible for the cost of medical qualification for voluntary use.

TRAINING –

Powered Industrial Truck web-based training

<http://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#PIT>

Updated to clarify some components of the training.

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES –

- **Aerosol Can Collection** SOP

<http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-aerosol.pdf>

Clarified the use of collection containers with a foot pedal.

- **Battery Disposal** SOP

<http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-batterydisposal.pdf>

Minor changes to wording.

- **Oil Spill/Release Preparation & Response** SOP

http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-SPCC_spill-release_prep_response.pdf

Revised the disposal section so wording is more consistent with other similar SOPs.

- **Respiratory Protection – Air Purifying Respirators; Cartridge Change Schedules** SOP

http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/RPP_SOP_Cartridge_Change_Log.pdf

Updated to provide instruction in proper disposal of used cartridges.

- **Safety Protocol: 241 Am (BE) Neutron Probe** SOP

http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/SP_SOP_241Am%28Be%29NeutronProbe.pdf

Added a new gauge model number.

Remember...SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE!

Environmental Health and Safety

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