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1. Biosafety Training Revamp

The approach to comprehensive Biosafety training has recently been revised to improve clarity. The required web-based training courses are dependent on the biosafety level at which research will be conducted. The first course in the series is titled **Biosafety Research Compliance**. This training is required for all UNL employees prior to initiating or conducting research with biological materials subject to UNL's **Biosafety Guidelines**. The Biosafety Guidelines document describes the methods, means, procedures, and policies that govern the conduct of work with biohazardous materials by UNL employees and/or within UNL facilities.

The first half of the **Biosafety Research Compliance** training module helps the trainee understand federal regulations and guidelines as well as UNL's infrastructure for ensuring compliance. The second half of this training module helps the trainee understand the operation of the IBC (Institutional Biosafety Committee), preparing protocols, protocol maintenance and more. The training ends with incident reporting information, implications of non-compliance, and biosecurity.

Workers at all biological containment levels must first successfully complete this course before taking the additional required training sequentially. **Biosafety 101** is the second training in the series, replaces **Biosafety Basics**, and is required for persons who work at Biosafety Level 1 containment or higher. This training lays the foundation for working with biological materials at UNL and includes both risk assessment and risk minimization using standard practices at biosafety containment level 1.

For persons who work at Biosafety Level 2, the third required training in the series, to be taken AFTER **Biosafety Research Compliance** and **Biosafety 101**, is **Biosafety 201**. **Biosafety 201** replaces **Biosafety in the BSL-2 Laboratory** and reviews characteristics of and requirements for BSL-2 containment including various special practices for work at this level of containment.

Work at Biosafety Level 3 requires the three courses just reviewed plus didactic and hands-on training.

Resources

- EHS web-based training <https://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training>
- **Biosafety** Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/biosafety>
- **On-the-Job and Student Injuries** SOP <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-injury.pdf>

2. Spring Colloquium - Laboratory Ventilation

Environmental Health & Safety (EHS), in partnership with the Office of Research & Economic Development (ORED), is sponsoring a campus-wide Safety Colloquium, “**Laboratory Ventilation**” on **Wednesday, March 28, 2018**. Featured are Scott Ward, Labconco Product Manager, speaking on chemical fume hoods and Jacob Olson, UNL BSM Manager/Controls Engineer speaking on room controllers and management of general laboratory ventilation.

Those who work in a laboratory with occupancy controls (the boxes on the wall near the entrance to the room) and/or who use, intend to use, or select and purchase chemical fume hoods will find this colloquium particularly informative.

- East Campus Union from 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- Repeated at Hamilton Hall (Room 102) from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

RSVPs are NOT required. The noon session on East Campus is repeated so select whichever session best fits your schedule and mark your calendar! 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>

3. Ladder Safety Month

The American Ladder Institute (ALI) sponsors National Ladder Safety Month in March. ALI is the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved developer of safety standards for the ladder industry. Standards are technical specifications that prescribe rules governing the safe construction, design, testing, care and use of various types of ladders.

Did you know that about 2,000 ladder-related injuries occur every day and 364 deaths occur each year from falls related to ladder use? Many everyday tasks

require the use of a ladder or step stool. Step stool hazards are similar to those of ladders, even though step stools generally are a lower height.

One of the top reasons for ladder-related injuries is using the incorrect ladder. If you use a ladder or a step stool, review the resources provided to ensure that you do not become an “injury statistic.”

Resources

- American Ladder Safety Institute <http://www.americanladderinstitute.org/>
- National Ladder Safety Month <https://www.laddersafetymonth.com/>
- EHS **Ladder Safety** SOP <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-ladder.pdf>
- EHS **Portable Ladder Safety** Web-Based Training <https://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#PortableLadder>

4. Safety Shorts – Using Ladders Safely

This series features links to short safety resource(s) each month. Provided this month are resources related to ladder safety.

- **Ladders and Falls – Safety Training Video – Prevent Fatal Accidents on Ladders** (Safety Memos, 1.58 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc8mtVt_VA8
- **How to Use Ladders Safety** (This Old House, 10:21 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ap243_DAIjs

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.

5. Situational Preparedness – Parking Lot Perils

Situational preparedness is so important that we will be looking at various aspects over time, as well as providing resources to assist you to “be prepared” for whatever situations you may encounter.

Parking lots are regularly used but often not recognized as hazardous. People tend to let their guard down in parking lots, whether walking or driving. Some factors leading to unsafe conditions are:

- the presence of pedestrians, many of whom do not maintain situational awareness of the general area;
- the relaxed attitude of drivers no longer in traffic;
- blind spots due to parked vehicles;
- turning vehicles;

- surfaces that are uneven, not well maintained or ice/snow/rain-covered; and
- excessive speed.

An article published in *Safety+Health, the Official Magazine of the NSC (National Safety Council) Congress and Expo*, reported: “In 2016, the National Safety Council polled nearly 2,500 drivers about their attitudes toward distracted driving. Of those, 67 percent of adult drivers said they felt at risk from other drivers who are distracted by technology, and 25 percent said they put themselves or others at risk because of their own use of technology while driving. But for every variety of distraction – phone calls, texting, grooming, use of social media, etc. – both groups showed a much higher likelihood of technology use in parking lots than on the highway or surface streets.”

Workers should stay alert in parking lots, whether in or out of their vehicles, to mitigate parking lot perils.

Resources

- Bush, J. (2017, December 19). Avoiding parking lot perils. Retrieved February 23, 2018, from *Safety+Health, Official Magazine of the NSC (National Safety Council) Congress and Expo*
http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/16449-parking-lot-safety?utm_source=jan2nd%3Futm_medium&utm_campaign=inThisIssue

6. Chancellor’s University Safety Committee Open Forum

The Chancellor’s University Safety Committee (CUSC) will host the fall **Open Forum** meeting at Nebraska East Union 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. The campus community is invited 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 bi-monthly meetings.

The CUSC charter, as well as links to the list of members, upcoming agenda, meeting dates/locations, previous meeting minutes, current year’s goal and more, are available online.

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>

7. Are YOU Prepared for an EPA Inspection?

UNL is subject to unannounced inspections by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), to assess compliance with waste management regulations. These inspections typically occur every 2-3 years. We anticipate an inspection sometime during the next several months. Review the EHS **Waste Management** Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs). If you use/dispose of chemicals or any of the other items as noted in the SOP in the first bullet below, YOU need to prepare.

As a reminder, if you are the subject of such an inspection:

- Review the EHS SOP, **Items/Materials Prohibited from Trash Cans and Dumpsters**.
- Review your work area. Make sure that all containers are closed, properly labeled, in good condition, and located in the same area where the waste was generated.
- If an inspector visits your work location, answer their questions honestly, but answer **only** the question asked. There is no need to volunteer information. After you have answered the inspector's question, wait silently and patiently for their next question.
- Avoid the temptation to keep talking because silence is uncomfortable. If you don't know the answer to a question - **don't guess**, just say that you don't know. You may direct the inspector to your supervisor or someone else who may know the answer.

Resources

- **State or Federal Hazardous Waste Inspections** SOP
http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-state_fed_inspections.pdf
- **Waste Management** SOPs <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/waste-management>
- **Items/Materials Prohibited from Trash Cans and Dumpsters** SOP
http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-dumpster_ban.pdf

8. Was It a "Near Miss?"

A campus-wide initiative, led by the Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) is underway to encourage all UNL employees to report unsafe practices and Near Misses. A near miss is an incident where no property was damaged and no personal injury sustained, but where, given a slight shift in time or position, damage and/or injury or illness easily could have occurred. This type of situation is often thought of as a "close call." The purpose of such reporting is to

identify and abate contributing factors before they result in personal injury/illness or property damage.

By reporting these circumstances, you are contributing to a safer and healthier campus environment. Information reported is shared throughout the University for educational/awareness purposes. Specific identifying information (e.g., names, departments, etc.) is removed before reporting on an incident. We appreciate your participation and assure you that there is no risk of repercussions for reporting a situation or hazard.

To support this effort, the EHS “*Near Miss/Close Call Incident Reporting Form*,” revised to include unsafe practices, is available through the EHS website. EHS also has available business-card size handouts containing the URL to report. NOTE: The URL has changed recently so if you have these small handouts contact us for replacement. Please consider requesting a number of these Near Miss/Close Call reporting informational cards to share with those in your area. To request any quantity of these business-card size handouts contact EHS at 402-472-4925 or ehs@unl.edu.

Resources

- *Near Miss/Close Call Incident Reporting Form* <https://ehs.unl.edu/near-missclose-call-incident-reporting-form>

Remember...SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE!

Environmental Health and Safety

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