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### 1. Severe Weather Awareness

Whether you work on campus or in the field, do you know what to do in the event of severe weather? Unless you recently have taken the EHS web-based **Emergency Preparedness** training now would be a good time to review that online module and related resources including UNL's Emergency Planning and Preparedness website.

A number of areas have established Emergency Action Plans. Does your building have one? If not, now might be a good time to set one up. You can download a template from UNL's Emergency Preparedness website. Assistance/consultation regarding completion is only an email away, by contacting [preparedness@unl.edu](mailto:preparedness@unl.edu). If your area does have an Emergency Action Plan, review it now to be sure you are familiar with the components.

The EHS Safe Operating Procedure **Communication of Work Area Safety Information** contains a checklist with various items including a section on "Emergency Preparedness." The checklist assists both workers and supervisors by identifying relevant action items for new/current workers.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Weather Service, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration have a number of useful resources covering a variety of weather hazards.

### Resources

- EHS web-based **Emergency Preparedness** training  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#EP>
- UNL Emergency Planning and Preparedness website  
<https://emergency.unl.edu/>

- National Weather Service Lightning Safety Tips and Resources  
<https://www.weather.gov/safety/lightning>
- OSHA Factsheet “*Lightning Safety When Working Outdoors*”  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3863.pdf>
- NOAA “*The Online Tornado FAQ*”  
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/>
- UNL Emergency Preparedness “*Really Obvious*” Preparedness Facts  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh0k4GzppsqEyNcNx-fxPRIdpC-hERTQH>
  - UNL Emergency Preparedness
  - Tornado Tips
  - ShakeOut (Earthquakes)
  - Lightning
  - Ready Campus
- Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills  
<https://www.shakeout.org/dropcoverholdon/>
- EHS Safe Operating Procedure **Communication of Work Area Safety Information** <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-workareasafety.pdf>

## 2. Safety Shorts – Be Prepared for Severe Weather

This series features links to short safety resource(s) each month. Provided this month are resources related to various types of severe weather:

- **Lightning Safety for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community (with voice too)** (usweathervgov, 1:15 min.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uU1IO1S15e4>
- **Tornado Safety Tips** (Storm, 2:10 min.)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JG0ads9c6Kw>
- **Great ShakeOut Earthquake Safety Video Series** (Great ShakOut Earthquake Drills, seven videos of various situations)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSDmqLQmMN0&list=PLs1gMujRSBY2t7JB4VS-AymFwN-6Lvg20>

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.

### 3. NEW SOP: General Laboratory Housekeeping

**General Laboratory Housekeeping** is a new Safe Operating Procedure developed to provide guidance to labs about housekeeping that should be conducted in all laboratories. All lab workers have a responsibility to do their part to maintain a clean and safe working environment for themselves and their lab coworkers. Much of the guidance in this document could be considered common sense and if these practices are already observed in your lab, congratulations to your lab.

It is important to note the limits of cleaning services provided by UNL FMP Custodial Services, which are identified in this document. Comments or questions about the guidance in this document can be directed to [ehs@unl.edu](mailto:ehs@unl.edu) or 402-472-4925.

#### Resources

- **General Laboratory Housekeeping** SOP [https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-lab\\_housekeeping.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-lab_housekeeping.pdf)

### 4. NEW Safety Poster: Good Housekeeping = Safe Science

EHS has developed a number of safety posters of relevance to the campus community. It is YOUR responsibility to keep your lab clean and safe! This poster serves as a visual reminder of good housekeeping and notes the limits of the cleaning services provided by Custodial Services.

**Good Housekeeping = Safe Science**

Keep benches free of clutter and hazardous residues	Clean up spills immediately*	Pick up lab debris and trash on the floor* Maintain safe exit routes from the lab	Keep emergency eyewashes and showers accessible	Keep biohazard and RAM waste separate from regular trash

\*Custodial Services **DOES NOT** clean up unidentified spills in labs and **WILL NOT** sweep up lab debris (e.g. pipette tips, paper, tubes, etc.) on the floor.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP YOUR LAB CLEAN AND SAFE!**

Safe Operating Procedure (ehs.unl.edu):  
Laboratory Housekeeping

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Contact EHS for questions or comments:  
Environmental Health & Safety - (402) 472-4925

Order your FREE poster(s) today. Contact [ehs@unl.edu](mailto: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>

## 5. Situational Preparedness – Distracted Driving Month

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 at UNL while driving, bicycling or walking.

Just one second of distraction behind the wheel is all it takes to change a life forever. During the month of April, the National Safety Council (NSC) is leading an effort to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving in workplaces, homes, and communities with April designated as ***Distracted Driving Month***.

Distracted Driving continues to have devastating consequences on our roads, sending a ripple effect into our homes, communities and places of work. You're not as safe as you think you are. “You're Not as Safe as You Think You Are” is a free webinar on April 23 at 11 a.m. CT. Learn more about the real risks of distracted driving and what safety-forward companies are doing to combat these risks, tips you can personally implement as well.

Sign up now to get your Distracted Driving Awareness Month materials. These FREE downloadable materials include posters, fact sheets, infographics, social media posts and more. Share these important safety messages at work, with family/friends, and in your community to help save lives.

Take the pledge to “Just Drive” for your own safety and for the safety of others with whom you share the roads. Choose to not drive distracted in any way.

## Resources

- FREE NSC webinar “You're Not as Safe as You Think You Are” registration [http://eventcallregistration.com/reg/index.jsp?cid=81456t11&utm\\_campaign=COM%2015221%20ddam-webnr&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=71050887&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ETFykjw\\_pWJbG5aWyoYBR7N05ZHN0ZrUQS\\_cP4X-Cy0-E1Rol2BC8yyWzd4qvJsKmpDJUQgxJ0Q7GcgPjIVKlxfA1gA&hsmi=71299514](http://eventcallregistration.com/reg/index.jsp?cid=81456t11&utm_campaign=COM%2015221%20ddam-webnr&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=71050887&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ETFykjw_pWJbG5aWyoYBR7N05ZHN0ZrUQS_cP4X-Cy0-E1Rol2BC8yyWzd4qvJsKmpDJUQgxJ0Q7GcgPjIVKlxfA1gA&hsmi=71299514)

- FREE NSC Distracted Driving Awareness Month Materials  
[http://safety.nsc.org/ddam?utm\\_campaign=COM%2015221%20ddam-webnr&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=71050887&hsenc=p2ANgtz--ETFykjw\\_pWJbG5aWyoYBR7N05ZHN0ZrUQS\\_cP4X-Cy0-E1Rol2BC8yyWzd4qvJsKMPDJUQgxJ0Q7GcgPjIVKlxfA1gA&hsmi=71299514](http://safety.nsc.org/ddam?utm_campaign=COM%2015221%20ddam-webnr&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=71050887&hsenc=p2ANgtz--ETFykjw_pWJbG5aWyoYBR7N05ZHN0ZrUQS_cP4X-Cy0-E1Rol2BC8yyWzd4qvJsKMPDJUQgxJ0Q7GcgPjIVKlxfA1gA&hsmi=71299514)
- April is Distracted Driving Month <https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/get-involved/distracted-driving-awareness-month>
- NSC Pledge to “Just Drive” – Free From Distractions  
<https://safety.nsc.org/ddam-pledge>

## 6. Reminder from Department of Homeland Security

Recently, a representative of the United States Department of Homeland Security reached out to Environmental Health and Safety to remind us of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism (CFATS) Standards program. The goal of the CFATS program is to prevent misuse of certain Chemicals of Interest (COI) at America’s high-risk chemical facilities for use in a terrorist act on the homeland through the systematic regulation, inspection, and enforcement of chemical infrastructure security requirements.

While it is not intuitive, the CFATS regulations can impact institutions of higher education, including UNL. Regulations implementing this program require any facility in possession of certain chemicals above certain thresholds to register with the Department of Homeland Security. These regulations cover over 300 different chemicals.

EHS encourages all persons who work with chemicals at UNL to review the EHS document titled ***Chemicals of Concern – United States Department of Homeland Security Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards***. This SOP is available on the EHS website at [https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-DHS\\_ChemFacility\\_Anti-Terrorism.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-DHS_ChemFacility_Anti-Terrorism.pdf).

A complete list of chemicals subject to the CFATS regulations can be viewed at <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/appendix-a-to-part-27-508.pdf>. Contact EHS by email [ehs@unl.edu](mailto:ehs@unl.edu) or phone 402.472.4925 if you have questions or need additional information/guidance.

## 7. NEW EHS Web-Based Training Portal

**Coming in May** is a new portal for EHS web-based training (WBT). During the conversion, EHS web-based training courses will **NOT BE AVAILABLE** for a time. The anticipated down-time is from midnight Sunday, May 5, 2019, through midnight Tuesday, May 14, 2019, but if things work very well training

may be available sooner. You can watch the website if you are eagerly waiting to take/have your staff take EHS web-based training. WBT availability information will be posted prominently on the EHS web-based training page.

The “Overview” will change to reflect information on the new portal and there will be an added section with “Steps to Take EHS Web-Based Training.” There are a few major changes:

1. To access the training portal workers will need to login using their My.UNL or myred.unl.edu login.
2. Once at the training portal, workers need their NU ID to proceed and may **no longer** take training without an ID.
3. There have been some Course Name/Category Name changes:
  - a. The two Core trainings have undergone a slight name change so the **Core- Injury and Illness Prevention Plan** which should be taken first, will be displayed first under “Required Training.”
  - b. Likewise the name of the Biosafety Research Compliance Training has undergone a slight change so that training appears before the Biosafety 101 and Biosafety 201 in the selection list to facilitate taking Biosafety 100: Research Compliance **before other** Biosafety courses.
  - c. The “Targeted” category name has been eliminated. Courses previously under that section are now in a titled section indicating what the training primarily consists of. Targeted Chemical and Equipment Safety Training modules will now be within the Category: “Chemical Safety.”

The training experience will be a bit different but the content of all courses will remain the same. If you facilitate training and would like a preview between now and May 3, please contact Betsy Howe, [ehowe2@unl.edu](mailto:ehowe2@unl.edu) or 402.472.5488.

## 8. EHS on Twitter

Find us and follow Environmental Health and Safety on Twitter!  
[@UNLincolnEHS](https://twitter.com/UNLincolnEHS).

## 9. Do You Have an Opinion?

Environmental Health and Safety is committed to excellent customer service and offers 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.

In order to effectively evaluate potential areas for improvement, please provide specific information or examples and your name and contact information. The Director, Brenda Osthus, follows up on all submissions. We greatly appreciate your participation.

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

## 10. Revised Safe Operating Procedures

- ***Autoclave Operation and Performance Testing***  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-bio-autoclavesafety.pdf>  
Removed specific information about routine maintenance and referred users to the Owner's Manual for the autoclave. Edited procedure for autoclaving sharps boxes. Updated "Out of Order" sign to allow listing of alternate Autoclave ID and location. The contact phone number for autoclave issues was changed to the main EHS number. Added requirement that autoclave users must provide dark trash bags for disposal of autoclaved waste in dumpsters. Rearranged ordering of the document to improve readability and flow.
- ***Sharps – Handling and Disposing***  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-bio-sharps-handling\\_disposing.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-bio-sharps-handling_disposing.pdf)  
Added additional guidance on sharps handling with animals. The guidance on use of safety needles and recapping of needles was enhanced by the addition of pictures. Guidance on disposal of contaminated sharps was revised in accordance with changes to the ***Disposal of Biohazardous Materials*** SOP. Graphics were added for examples of non-infectious sharps containers.

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

### **Environmental Health and Safety**

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