

## In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv – February 12, 2020

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### 1. Do You Know the Plan for Emergency Action?

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 facilities during emergencies.

Putting together an emergency action plan that deals with specifics of your work site/building is not difficult. It involves describing how employees should respond to different types of emergencies, taking into account your specific work site layout, structural features, and emergency systems.

The UNL Emergency Planning and Preparedness website contains a template (“Faculty, Staff & Depts.” tab, “Have a Plan” section). Assistance and a fillable version is available upon request from Mark Robertson, UNL Emergency Management Director ([preparedness@unl.edu](mailto: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.

Does your department/area/facility already have an Emergency Action Plan? Emergency action plans should be reviewed at least once a year and more often if necessary to reflect changes in personnel or other specific attributes of the area/facility.

All workers should be familiar with the emergency action plan, including how they will be notified of an emergency, at least two safe routes of escape from the building, and where they can shelter-in-place, if needed. In an emergency people tend to freeze, so they need to know what to do without having to think about it—that means training. If workers have additional roles to play in an emergency, such as shutting down equipment or assisting disabled co-workers, they must be trained in those duties as well. In addition to regular review/

/retraining, make sure that all new workers are trained on the emergency action plan.

## Resources

- Emergency Planning & Preparedness: Building Emergency Action Plan <https://emergency.unl.edu/doc/Template%20Building%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>
- EHS **Emergency Preparedness** Safe Operating Procedures <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/emergency-preparedness>
- EHS **Emergency Preparedness** web-based training <https://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#EP>

## 2. AEDs and You

An AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) is a smart, portable device that can be used to treat heart attack victims. Because of their simple design and ease of operation, they can be safely used by a member of the general public. An AED contains a power pack and two electrodes. The electrodes are applied to strategic locations on the chest of the victim and the power pack delivers a shock when a button is pushed. If effective, the shock restores normal electrical rhythm to the heart. An AED will not deliver a shock unless it first detects an abnormal heart rhythm.

Do you know the location of the nearest AED in your workplace? Like fire extinguishers and other fixtures, we often walk right by AEDs and don't really notice them. In the event of an emergency it is important to be able to quickly retrieve an AED for use.

To assure AEDs will be functional in an emergency situation, routine maintenance is required. Batteries are one of the most important parts of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) system. To make sure an AED will work perfectly in an emergency situation, periodically check batteries as directed by the manufacturer to make sure they are in good working condition and replace the batteries when needed. The manufacturer will provide additional maintenance instructions, such as periodic replacement of electrodes and pads.

AED batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel which must be properly disposed. Complete and submit a Hazardous Materials Collection Tag for disposal through Environmental Health and Safety.

Upon occasion, there may be a reason to dispose the entire AED unit. When discarding the entire unit, contact EHS for pickup and disposal of the device by completing/submitting a Hazardous Materials Collection Tag.

For questions on this topic or other disposal concerns, contact Tony Lloyd, 402.472.4942 or [alloyd4@unl.edu](mailto:alloyd4@unl.edu).

## Resources

- **Automatic External Defibrillators** Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-AED.pdf>
- 08/22/2013, Posted on. "Portable Defibrillators Need Regular Maintenance to Prevent Failures." *Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation*, 22 Aug. 2013, [www.sca-aware.org/sca-news/portable-defibrillators-need-regular-maintenance-to-prevent-failures](http://www.sca-aware.org/sca-news/portable-defibrillators-need-regular-maintenance-to-prevent-failures).
- **Battery Disposal** SOP <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-batterydisposal.pdf>
- **Hazardous/Radioactive Material Collection Procedures** SOP [https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-chem\\_collection\\_procedures.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-chem_collection_procedures.pdf)

## 3. Situational Preparedness – Intersection Safety

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.

Intersections are planned points of conflict in any roadway system. Strategies to improve safety are primarily engineering-based, involving design, signals, signage, etc. Recently a UNL vehicle was in an accident at an Antelope Valley intersection. The driver was stopped in the intersection at a blinking yellow left turn light. When the light turned red the worker assumed that all lights turned red and that they needed to vacate the intersection. But the light in the opposite direction remained green.

There has been much confusion since the City of Lincoln instituted changes in left-turn lights with the goal of reducing accidents 25% per the national average. On The City of Lincoln Traffic Engineering website there is information on the meaning of the different left-turn signals, provided to demystify the meaning of the new signals.

In addition there are links to "Flashing Yellow Arrows" and "Pedestrian Signals" which provide additional useful information on intersection safety for motor vehicles/bicycles/pedestrians. With the change in Lincoln to flashing yellow left-turn signals a review of the parameters and extra caution is advised. Consider printing the "Traffic Signal Guide" PDF to share with family, neighbors, co-workers and/or post in your work area.

## Resources

- City of Lincoln “Traffic Signal Guide”  
<https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/engine/traffic/signal/pdf/traffic-signal-guide.pdf>
- “Traffic Engineering.” *Traffic Engineering > Signals*,  
[www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/engine/traffic/signal/](http://www.lincoln.ne.gov/city/ltu/engine/traffic/signal/)

## 4. Safety Shorts – Roundabouts, 4-Way Stops, Uncontrolled Intersections

This series features links to short safety resource(s) each month. Provided this month are resources related to safely navigating various types of intersections and includes information relevant to cyclists and pedestrians.

- **How To Navigate Through a Roundabout** (Safe2DriveTraffic School & defensive Driving, 4:22 minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmcvDLmKZJc>  
This illustrates proper navigation of a roundabout, including what to do when an emergency vehicle is coming. With roundabouts traffic flow improves and all accidents are reduced by 38% with pedestrian & cyclist accidents reduced by 40%.
- **Who Has the Right of Way at a 4-Way (All-Way) STOP Sign** (Smart Drive Test, 4:20 minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVgSNkvI9jE>
- **Right of Way at Uncontrolled Intersection – Adult Drivers Ed Online Texas 18-24** (Drivers Education of America, 5:52 minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuXzqW8daaA>

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. EPA Not the Only Agency

This listserv regularly provides information on EPA inspections. However, EPA is not the only agency conducting targeted inspections at UNL. Other agencies that routinely conduct compliance inspections at UNL of programs under the purview of EHS include the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NHHS), Nebraska Department of Environment and

Energy (NDEE), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH). Following is a brief description of the purpose of each agency's inspection of UNL. More information about any of these program areas is available on the EHS website.

- U.S. DOT assesses UNL's compliance with regulations governing the transport of dangerous goods/hazardous materials by any mode of transportation. Any person offering a dangerous good for transport must have current training and the package must be prepared in accordance with all regulatory requirements.
- LLCHD assesses UNL's compliance with Clean Air Act regulations and Special Waste regulations. These regulations mandate certain conditions for UNL's ability to emit air pollutants, primarily from burning of fossil fuels.
- NHHS assesses UNL's compliance with Nebraska Title 180, Control of Radiation. These regulations pertain to use of radioactive materials and devices producing ionizing radiation.
- NDEE assesses UNL's compliance with a number of different regulations, including proper management of hazardous wastes, regulations evolving from the Clean Water Act (stormwater management, livestock operations, etc.), and response to releases of hazardous materials.
- USDA assesses UNL's compliance with permit requirements for certain animal and plant products, as well as UNL's compliance with Select Agent regulations.
- NIH assesses UNL's compliance with the NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules.

These regulatory requirements and agencies touch on nearly every aspect of UNL. EHS is committed to designing and administering reliable and practicable programs that assist the campus community in achieving and maintaining a high level of compliance.

## Resources

- Department of Health and Human Services, DHHS Regulations <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DHHS-Regulations.aspx>
- Department of Environment and Energy, Rules and Regulations <http://dee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/Rules>
- National Institutes of Health, NIH Guidelines <https://osp.od.nih.gov/biotechnology/nih-guidelines/>
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/>
- City of Lincoln, Environmental Public Health <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/health/enviro/>
- United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/home/>

- Federal Select Agent Program <https://www.selectagents.gov/>

## 6. Meet New EHS Staff

Recently as part of the EHS commitment to help the campus community achieve occupational safety, biosafety, radiation safety and environmental protection EHS has added staff: Following are their introductions to you:

- I'm **Ahaileas Harisis but please call me Larry!** I am the Assistant Radiation Safety Officer (ARSO) and Senior Safety Specialist for EHS. As the ARSO, I am tasked with ensuring the safe use of radioactive materials and x-ray devices at UNL and extension centers. As a Senior Safety Specialist, I am the liaison between EHS and several buildings, departments, and safety committees on campus. I currently hold a Bachelor's of Science in Nuclear Engineering Technology from Thomas Edison State University and a Master's in Health Physics from the Illinois Institute of Technology. I am a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist and am currently working on achieving board certification in Health Physics.
- My name is **BJ Clark**. I have a Bachelor of Science for Chemical Engineering. My job title is EHS Technician. My duties are to handle Universal Waste, Bio Waste, RAD Waste and Chemical Waste pick-ups on City, East and Innovation Campus. I am also tasked with completing Safety Audits of labs as well.
- Hi, I'm **Colton Reeder**, an EHS Technician. I earned a Bachelor of Science for Environmental Restoration Sciences from UNL. Duties typically conducted include Hazardous and Universal Waste pickups on all three campuses in Lincoln. I conduct Safety and Compliance Surveys of selected spaces, mainly laboratories.
- I'm **Noah Zetocha** and I work as an EHS Technician. I have a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Physics. I conduct Safety Compliance Surveys and pickup and process chemical, radioactive, and biological waste serving City, East and Innovation Campuses. I also work with items like aerosol cans, whether full or empty (per the State of Nebraska) as well as universal waste like fluorescent and CFL lamps, ballasts, batteries and electronics.
- I am **Smitha Rayadurg, Ph.D.**, the Assistant Biosafety Officer. My responsibilities involve assisting with the UNL Biosafety program, UNL Select Agent program and the overall Lab Safety program as needed. My experience involves hands on molecular biology and research on zoonotic disease, food microbiology plus overall biosafety/lab safety/export control program implementation and management.

## 7. How Are We Doing?

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. 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.

## 8. Revised Safe Operating Procedures

- **Sewer Disposal List** [https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-sewerdisp\\_2.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-sewerdisp_2.pdf)  
Added information that pharmaceuticals (e.g., prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, investigational drugs, dietary supplements, etc.) are prohibited from sewer disposal. Contact EHS to dispose of any pharmaceuticals.
  
- **Packaging and Shipping Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods**  
**Shipping Biological Substances and Patient Specimens**  
**Shipping Excepted Quantities of Dangerous Goods**  
**Shipping Infectious Substances w/wo Dry Ice**  
**Shipping Items with Dry Ice That Are not Otherwise Dangerous Goods**  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/shipping>  
All revised to remind the campus community NOT to prepare any international shipments before consulting with UNL Export Control: [exportcontrol@unl.edu](mailto:exportcontrol@unl.edu) or call 402.472.6929.

## Remember...SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE!

### Environmental Health and Safety

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