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1. Keeping Stormwater Runoff Sustainable at Home (Lawns & Gardens)

As we care for our home lawns and gardens it is important to recognize that certain landscaping practices can adversely impact stormwater runoff that flows into our local lakes and streams. It is important to recognize and limit the landscaping practices that contribute to stormwater pollution.

Common landscaping practices that adversely impact stormwater runoff include over application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides; allowing leaves and grass clippings to enter storm sewers; allowing disturbed soil to erode and carried off site by rains. Below are some tips and tricks that you can do at home to protect surface water quality.

- Do a soil test in your lawn or garden to better understand what type and how much fertilizer to apply. Do not over-apply and sweep up any fertilizer that is left on hard surfaces. Water in fertilizers after application.
- Adhere to the label instructions when applying pesticides and herbicides. Attempt to use the least amount necessary to get the job done. Use the spot & treat method rather than a blanket application and do not apply or dispose rinsate on hard surfaces.
- Sweep up and remove grass clippings, leaves, and tree trimmings from hard surfaces to prevent them from being transported into the storm sewer system during the next precipitation event.
- Cover bare and exposed soil to prevent erosion. There are many sediment and erosion control products available depending on the size and application needed. For many home lawn projects the most effective practices will focus on erosion controls such as establishing vegetation, installing mulch or erosion control mats, and covering temporarily soil stockpiles with a tarp.

Some sediment and erosion control practices that can be helpful include directing runoff into a vegetated area and/or installing wattles or erosion control matting to filter and prevent runoff.

For more information regarding what you can implement at home and information about how the University of Nebraska-Lincoln manages its stormwater runoff please visit <https://ehs.unl.edu/stormwater-management>.

2. Safety 24/7 for National Safety Month

The National Safety Council (NSC) has established June as National Safety Month. This annual observance exists to educate organizations and communities and encourage safe behaviors around the leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths. The NSC provides information to save lives and prevent injuries with weekly topics to start safety conversations, such as: Prevent Incidents Before They Start, and Advance Your Safety Journey.

With the United States seeing the highest number of workplace deaths since 2007, 5,333 fatal workplace injuries in 2019, this observance is more important than ever. And the importance of safety doesn't take a break once the worker is "off the clock." It is important to practice safe behaviors 24/7. According to the NSC, three times as many employees are injured off the job than while at work. Bring home safe practices you learn at work to share with your families and friends.

Ideas to get involved and observe National Safety Month:

- Hold drills in the workplace and at home on what to do in case of fire, tornado, a medical event or other natural disaster.
- Put together a first aid kit. Take first aid, CPR, and AED training.
- Take a defensive driving course.
- Learn how to identify hazards in the home and review potential hazards in the workplace.

Each week throughout National Safety Month there are opportunities to make a difference in your home, work, and community. Don't let yourself or a loved one become a statistic.

Resources

- NSC June is National Safety Month <https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/get-involved/national-safety-month>
- NSC Workplace Safety: Tools, Resources to Help You Stay Safe at Work <https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/tools-resources>
- Walter, L. (2012, June 11). *National Safety Month: Staying Safe 24/7*. EHS Today <https://www.ehstoday.com/safety/article/21915160/national-safety-month-staying-safe-247>

- National Day Calendar NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-safety-month-june/>

3. Situational Preparedness – Far Hand Reach & Other Safety Tips

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 while driving, bicycling, walking or using scooters, skateboards and other such equipment.

Motorcyclists, bicyclists, and scooter/skateboard users are more vulnerable to crashes than other drivers. Regardless of transportation mode, what can you do to ensure you are not the cause of a crash?

There is a simple technique to ensure those in a motor vehicle do not open their door in front of an oncoming vehicle, cyclist, pedestrian, etc. It is called the “Far Hand Reach.” To open a vehicle door to exit, use the hand farthest from the door handle (far hand) to reach across and open the vehicle door. As you reach across your body, your body will naturally swivel, and you will automatically look at the side-view mirror and look back for oncoming traffic. Remain vigilant as you open the door.

With good weather, motorcycles, bicycles, and other ride-on equipment is on the roads in increasing numbers. Here are some tips to prevent collisions between motor vehicles and these other modes of transportation:

- Share the road. The road doesn’t just belong to cars and trucks. Never share a lane with another ‘vehicle.’ Give them the full lane width.
- Before changing lanes, drivers should check their rearview mirror, side-view mirror, and look over their shoulder to avoid blind-spots that obstruct the view of motorcycles, bicycles, scooters, etc., which are relatively small and hard to see.
- Be particularly vigilant at intersections. Check both ways at least twice before entering an intersection.
- When drivers spot a motorcycle, bicycle, scooter, etc. try to maintain a sense of their location and anticipate their movements.
- Avoid distractions from cell phones, passengers, and anything else that can take your focus away from the road and other vehicles, even for a few seconds.

Tips for those using motorcycles, bicycles, scooters and similar modes of transportation:

- Wear an approved full-coverage helmet.

- Assume you are invisible to other motorists. Position yourself to be seen, avoiding any other vehicle's blind spot(s). Wear bright and/or reflective clothing.
- Take a safety course. Make sure your 'vehicle' is in good working order.
- Be courteous; don't weave in and out of lanes or ride on the shoulder or between lanes.
- Follow the law. Ride with traffic, signal before turning, yield right-of-way.
- Navigate the roadway defensively, especially at intersections where half of all collisions occur. Think ahead and try to anticipate movement of others using the road.

All drivers/riders, remember to follow the rules of the road and remain aware of others using the roadway.

Resources

- National Safety Council (NSC): Protect Bicyclists with the Far Hand Reach Technique <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/summer/bicycles/far-hand-reach>
- NSC: Motorcycle Safety is a Two-Way Street <https://www.nsc.org/road-safety/safety-topics/motorcycle-safety>
- CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) Which Helmet for Which Activity? (reference chart on helmet standards) <https://www.cpsc.gov/safety-education/safety-guides/sports-fitness-and-recreation-bicycles/which-helmet-which-activity/>
- Traffic School Online.com: May is Motorcycle and Bicycle Awareness Month <https://trafficschoolonline.com/blog/motorcycle-awareness-month>
- Walter, L. (2012, May 15). *6 Tips for Motorcycle Safety Month*. EHS Today. <https://www.ehstoday.com/safety/article/21915121/6-tips-for-motorcycle-safety-awareness-month>

4. Heads Up!

The Chancellor's University Safety Committee has recently commissioned University Communications to develop an entirely new set of graphics for the Heads Up! campaign to promote safe driving, walking, and bicycling on campus. These new graphics emphasize safe use of scooters, skateboards and other such devices, which are becoming increasingly common.

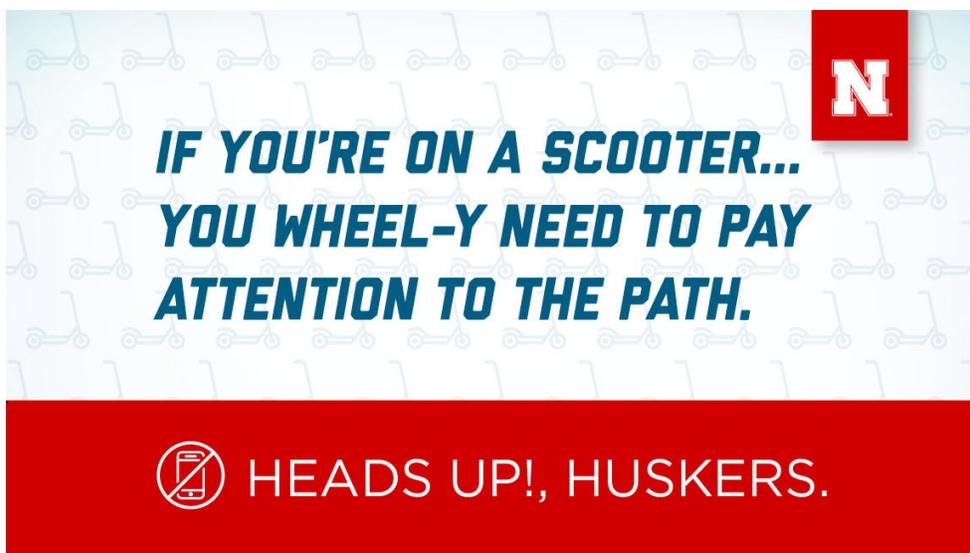
Graphics are available for download from the EHS website (<https://ehs.unl.edu/heads-up-graphics>). They are also available through the UNL Digital Content Library or EHS will provide an electronic file suitable for

electronic display boards at UNL. To request a file, contact EHS by phone (402.472.4925) or email (ehs@unl.edu).

There are other materials available to promote safe navigation around and on campus (<https://ehs.unl.edu/heads-up-marketing-materials>):

- Short reminders to use in your department/area communications
- Discussion Questions to use at safety committee or other safety meetings
- Resources that include a number of videos, infographics and more

Here are the graphics highlighted for May & June:





Visit the EHS Heads Up! graphics website every two months to find different graphics you can use to spread the word about safe driving/bicycling/walking and use of scooters, skateboards, etc.

5. Mobile Aerial Lift and PIT Programs Decentralized

In the past, EHS has tracked UNL mobile aerial lifts and powered industrial trucks and operators. EHS would periodically evaluate equipment to ensure it was suitable for use and provide instruction and hands-on observation of proper operation by campus users. With the recent budget cuts, these programs have been decentralized and departments are now responsible to ensure that their equipment is fit for use and operators are properly trained and evaluated periodically. EHS will continue to maintain the web-based training modules that support aerial lifts and powered industrial trucks (forklifts). However, EHS will no longer engage in regular equipment or operator evaluations. Related EHS SOPs and web-based training modules have been updated to reflect these changes.

Resources

- Aerial Lift Safety https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-aerial_lift_safety.pdf
- Forklift/Powered Industrial Truck Safety <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-forklift.pdf>
- Personal Fall Arrest Systems https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-personal_fall_arrest_systems.pdf
- **Mobile Aerial Lift** web-based training <https://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#MobileAerialLift>

- **Powered Industrial Truck** web-based training
<https://ehs.unl.edu/web-based-training#PIT>

6. Have You Seen It?

EHS has recently updated our website! Here is the latest Director's Message, in case you haven't been to the EHS website recently:

Welcome to the EHS website! On behalf of the entire EHS staff, I want to wish you a fulfilling and safe experience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is our mission to protect our campus community's human resources, research, and environment by providing services to assist UNL faculty, staff, and students to integrate safety, environmental stewardship, and compliance into their workplace. We do this through the EHS Promise along with the Business and Finance Statement of Inclusive Excellence.
~ Brenda Osthus, Director

Featured prominently are "Our Promise"...why EHS exists, and "Inclusive Excellence"...the commitment of Business and Finance to diversity, inclusion, and equity. Note the new "Spotlight," feature to introduce you to EHS staff, highlight selected seasonal safety topics and more.

7. Revised Safe Operating Procedure

- **Recombinant and/or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecule Experiments Requiring IBC Review**
https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-bio-rDNA_IBC_Other_Rev_Req.pdf
Completely rewritten to improve readability and provide examples of experiments that fall within different sections of the NIH Guidelines. The tables describing specific animal and plant experiments have been removed to simplify the document.

THINK SAFETY – DON'T LEARN BY ACCIDENT!

Environmental Health and Safety

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
3630 East Campus Loop
Lincoln, NE 68583-0824
(402) 472-4925
<http://ehs.unl.edu>

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