

## **In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv – October 9, 2024**

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### **1. Using Methylene Chloride?**

On May 8, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a final rule regulating the manufacture, distribution, and use of methylene chloride (89 FR 39254). This rule was issued under the authority of the Toxic Control Substance Control Act. The rule bans certain uses of methylene chloride and restricts certain other uses. This rule potentially impacts the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) community, particularly those who use methylene chloride as a laboratory solvent/reagent, and persons using certain products containing methylene chloride such as paint strippers, adhesives, sealants, and degreasers/cleaners. Another name for methylene chloride is dichloromethane.

Are you using methylene chloride? If so, please complete and submit the form, <https://forms.office.com/r/CRMWnpgVBX>, promptly. Your assistance will facilitate gathering the required data about persons at UNL (including students) who may be using methylene chloride or products containing methylene chloride.

The rule contains varying dates of compliance, with regulated entities being required to conduct exposure assessments in certain circumstances no later than May 2025. EHS will follow-up on all submissions to assess each use individually and collaborate with the campus community to develop compliance plans.

If you have questions regarding this form, please contact EHS at [ehs@unl.edu](mailto:ehs@unl.edu) or 402.472.4925.

### **2. Harvest Hazard Mitigation**

Agriculture is among the most hazardous industries according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Harvest is an intense time due to the quantity of work to be accomplished and the time frame within which harvest must be

completed. That urgency, often leading to fatigue and inattentiveness, can result in an increased incidence of injury. Maintaining awareness of and avoiding potential hazards is key to avoiding injury. Prepare for harvest by reviewing these safety tips and others to mitigate potential hazards:

- Read operator manuals prior to equipment use and be sure all operators are familiar with and are properly trained in safe use of equipment.
- Install and use safety devices such as Slow-Moving Vehicle signs and seat belts. Have roll-over-protective devices fitted on tractors.
- Keep all equipment/machinery guards in place. Wait until all mechanisms have stopped moving and have been secured from restarting before attempting to service/unclog.
- Take breaks and get enough sleep. Fatigue, stress, medication, alcohol, and drugs cause lack of focus on tasks. Stay hydrated to help maintain awareness.
- To reduce fall hazards, use grab bars when mounting and dismounting machinery, and wear non-slip footwear.

Working safely and taking steps to mitigate hazards helps avoid injuries so you can get the job done.

## Resources

- EHS **Ag Safety** SOPs <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/ag-safety>
  - **Harvest Safety** [https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-harvest\\_safety.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-harvest_safety.pdf)
  - **Tractor Safety** <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-tractor.pdf>
- 10 Harvest Safety Tips to Prevent Accidents On The Farm (with links to a number of farm safety resources)  
<https://www.ruralmutual.com/resource/farm/harvest-safety-tips/>
- Your Harvest Safety Checklist  
<https://www.cenex.com/about/cenex-information/cenexperts-blog-page/safety-tips/Harvest-Safety-Checklist>
- OSHA Publications for “Agricultural Operations” (various topics, English/Spanish)  
<https://www.osha.gov/publications/bytopic/agricultural-operations>
- OSHA Quick Card “Backing Up Farm Vehicles and Equipment Safety” (English/Spanish)  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3733.pdf>

### 3. Stop the Bleed® - Harvest Time and Any Time

Did you know a person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes? The American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed® program is designed to help people know how to stop bleeding in a severely injured person. The number 1 cause of preventable death after injury is bleeding. Emergency responders aren't always the first at the scene of accidents. It's everyday people who are. And with the right knowledge and skills, you can save lives. Get trained!

For those preparing for harvest season, there is a free online interactive training on 3 quick actions to save a life is available through the Stop the Bleed® website. You can take the online course found there as initial training or as a reminder if you have taken an in-person course.

Once trained, Stop the Bleed® kits are available from a variety of sources, including home improvement stores.

To schedule a Stop the Bleed® training for your organization or civic group in Lincoln, contact Bryan Health, <https://www.bryanhealth.com/services/trauma/stop-the-bleed/>.

#### Resources

- *Training*. (n.d.). Stop The Bleed. Retrieved August 30, 2023, from <https://www.stopthebleed.org/training/>

### 4. Knife Safety

There have been a number of knife use injury incidents and near misses reported lately. Knives are a common tool in the workplace, but they can quickly cause a serious injury. Lacerations are one of the highest categories of injuries in the workplace. Following are a few safety tips:

- **Use the right tool for the job.** All tools are unique and designed to be used for a specific purpose. Determine if there is a safer tool that can be used or a different process that can be followed to eliminate use of knife.
- **Workers should be trained on specific knife and process.** Some safe use tips are:
  - Never touch a blade.
  - Always cut away from your body.
  - Keep your fingers out of cutting line.
  - Use correctly rated cut-resistant gloves.
  - Always cut on a stable surface.

- **Keep knives well-maintained and properly stored.** A dull or rusty knife is far more dangerous than a sharp and well-maintained knife. Store knives in a dry location all workers are aware of with handles easily accessible and blades all facing the same direction.
- **Assess knife use.** The best way to mitigate a hazard is to eliminate it. Is there a tool better to use instead of a knife? Are knives used in an area where others not using the knife are not impacted?

Review the following article and put the suggestions into practice to avoid injury.

### Resources

- *Workplace Learning System. (2024). Weekly safety briefings. In Weekly Safety Briefings.*  
[https://workplacelearningsystem.com/uploads/PDFs/Week302024SafetyTopics-KnifeSafety.pdf?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Weekly%20Safety%20Briefing%20%20July%202024%20%20Week%2030&utm\\_content=Weekly%20Safety%20Briefing%20%20July%202024%20%20Week%2030+CID\\_4b017132899f56341f6f75d95a1fcd57&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Download%20Safety%20Topics%20Handout%20PDF](https://workplacelearningsystem.com/uploads/PDFs/Week302024SafetyTopics-KnifeSafety.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Weekly%20Safety%20Briefing%20%20July%202024%20%20Week%2030&utm_content=Weekly%20Safety%20Briefing%20%20July%202024%20%20Week%2030+CID_4b017132899f56341f6f75d95a1fcd57&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Download%20Safety%20Topics%20Handout%20PDF)

## 5. Updated On-the-Job and Student Injuries SOP

The Company Care organization has been providing occupational health services for some time, but recently informed UNL that they were ceasing operations. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln HR department made arrangements with Madonna to provide pre-employment physicals, care of injured workers and bloodborne pathogen exposures, annual physicals as required and so on. The initial contact is through a Madonna Fit for Work hotline during specific hours. Updated information is within the EHS Safe Operating Procedure titled “On-the-Job and Student Injuries.”

### Resources

- EHS Safe Operating Procedure On-the-Job and Student Injuries  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/s-injury.pdf>

## 6. Drive Safely in Fog

Situational preparedness on roadways is so important that this listserv provides resources to promote safe navigation regardless of the mode of

transportation – motor vehicles, scooters, skateboards, motorcycles, bicycles.

Foggy conditions reduce visibility which can lead to crashes and resultant injury. What do you do if conditions are foggy and you cannot wait to travel until the fog clears?

- If you use a scooter or skateboard walk instead so that you stay off roadways or sidewalks. These methods of transportation do not allow you to rapidly respond should a hazard arise out of the fog.
- Motorcycle and bicycle riders remember that you will be harder to see than normal while on a foggy roadway. Use extra vigilance or consider another mode of transportation until the fog clears.
- Motor vehicles should:
  - Use low-beam headlights to best see through the fog.
  - Turn on windshield wipers and defroster to improve visibility.
  - Be extra vigilant. Watch especially for slower moving or parked vehicles, motorcycles or bicycles.
  - Do not use cruise control.
  - Use the right edge of the road as your visual guide so as to stay in your lane.
  - Slow down and increase the distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.
  - Turn on your signal in advance of changing lanes. If you can't see well one option is to pull off the road and park in a safe location.

## Resources

- Drive safely in the fog. (2024, September 19). *Safety+Health*. [https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/25976-drive-safely-in-the-fog?utm\\_source=sfmc&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=safetytipssep25&utm\\_content=](https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/25976-drive-safely-in-the-fog?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=safetytipssep25&utm_content=)

## 7. EHS is a Service Organization for You

EHS is here to help all workers to work safely and in compliance. Have you already used Environmental Health and Safety services? EHS 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 whether negative or positive. By taking a few moments to complete the survey (<https://ehs.unl.edu/customer-satisfaction-survey>), you will be helping us to identify areas where we might need to focus more attention.

To effectively evaluate potential areas for improvement or focus/refocus, 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 directly.

**ADOPT SAFETY AS YOUR ATTITUDE – DON'T LEARN BY ACCIDENT!**

**Environmental Health and Safety**

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