

## **In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv – September 11, 2024**

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### **1. EPA Final Rule: DCM Form Completed?**

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.

This form (<https://forms.office.com/r/CRMWnpgVBX>) is intended to facilitate gathering of data about persons at UNL (including students) who may be using methylene chloride or products containing methylene chloride. Please complete this form if you are aware of or suspect use of methylene chloride or products containing methylene chloride. Another name for methylene chloride is dichloromethane. 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.

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

### **2. CUSC Open Forum Meeting Invitation**

The Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) is a UNL committee established to assist the Chancellor by making recommendations of methods to reduce safety hazards at UNL. 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.

Twice a year the CUSC holds an Open Forum meeting to which the campus community is extended a special invitation. The fall **Open Forum** meeting will be held in the Environmental Health and Safety Training Room, Warehouse 1, East Campus and over Zoom. The meeting will take place from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.

The campus community is invited to share concerns or just observe the workings of the CUSC. To attend, contact [ehs@unl.edu](mailto:ehs@unl.edu) for the Zoom meeting link or directions to the EHS offices.

## Resources

- Chancellor's University Safety Committee information  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/chancellors-university-safety-committee-cusc#cusc>

## 3. Be Prepared for an Emergency

September is designated as National Preparedness Month by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Now is a good time to ensure you have an up-to-date building/department/facility emergency action plan in place. The purpose of an emergency action plan is to facilitate and organize employer and employee actions during workplace emergencies.

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. For questions or to submit an updated Plan contact [preparedness@unl.edu](mailto:preparedness@unl.edu) or Abby Schletzbaum, Emergency Management Director, by email [aschletzbaum2@unl.edu](mailto:aschletzbaum2@unl.edu) or Phone 402-472-7632.

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 other activities during natural or man-made disasters.

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. On the SAFETY AT NEBRASKA website, a **Building Emergency Action Plan** template is available to assist you in developing a plan for your

department/building/facility is available for download (<https://safety.unl.edu/faculty-staff-departments/>).

All workers should be familiar with their area's 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, and so on, they must be trained in those duties as well. In addition to regular review/retraining, make sure that all new workers are trained in the emergency action plan.

## Resources

- SAFETY AT NEBRASKA website <https://safety.unl.edu/>
- SAFETY AT NEBRASKA printable emergency procedures <https://safety.unl.edu/faculty-staff-departments/>
- 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>
- Department of Homeland Security Ready, "Make a Plan" <https://www.ready.gov/plan>

## 4. AEDs, PulsePoint® & CPR

Cardiac arrest is the third leading cause of death in the United States. AEDs are small, portable devices that can be used to treat heart attack victims. Because of their simple design and ease of operation, they can be safely used by members of the general public. Regardless of whether an AED is used, always call '911' to summon professional medical support. Any person acting in good faith can use an AED.

The free PulsePoint's® Respond application for iPhone or Android users empowers everyday citizens to provide life-saving assistance to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Application users may indicate they are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and are willing to assist in case of an emergency. Early, effective CPR marks the best predictor of survival for people who go into cardiac arrest outside a hospital.

In addition to having the PulsePoint® Respond app, it's helpful to be aware of the location of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in your workplace and areas of the community you frequent. The free PulsePoint® AED app for Android or iPhone exists to crowdsource lifesaving AED

location information. Anyone can add AED locations to the app. If someone sees an AED, this app allows them to check if it shows up on the map. If not, it's easy to add a location to the registry. Once the information submitted is verified by local authorities the new AED location will be added to the map.

More than 17,000 people have subscribed to Lincoln Fire and Rescue's feed on the free PulsePoint® Respond app. This mobile app scans 911 calls and sends alerts to app users within a quarter mile of an individual that requires CPR. The app then gives instructions on how to do CPR until first responders arrive. The minutes between a 911 call for CPR and when rescue workers arrive can be vital. In these situations, the sooner chest compressions being, the higher the chances of survival.

Regularly, the American Heart Association (AHA) releases updated guidelines for how to improve the effectiveness of CPR. Leaders of the AHA are continuously reviewing recent research and studies to ensure improved training, leading to a better outcome for victims of cardiac arrest.

CPR training is encouraged and available online through the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association. UNL Campus Recreation offers CPR training in a blended format. The Nebraska Safety Council also provides classes in CPR as well as First Aid and AED use.

## Resources

- PulsePoint® Respond information  
<https://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-respond/>
- PulsePoint® AED information  
<https://www.pulsepoint.org/pulsepoint-aed/>
- PulsePoint® Download (both AED and Respond apps available)  
<https://www.pulsepoint.org/download/>
- American Red Cross classes (online)  
<https://www.redcross.org/local/nebraska/take-a-class/cpr-lincoln-ne>
- American Heart Association Hands-Only CPR resources  
<https://cpr.heart.org/en/cpr-courses-and-kits/hands-only-cpr>
- UNL Campus Recreation <https://crec.unl.edu/outreach-classes>
- American Heart Association's 2020 CPR Updates  
<https://cpreducatorsinc.com/american-heart-associations-2020-cpr-updates/>
- **Automatic External Defibrillators** SOP  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-AED.pdf>

## 5. Resources for National Farm Safety & Health Week

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in 2021 agriculture was the most dangerous sector in America, with 453 fatalities. Fall harvest time is one of the busiest and most dangerous seasons of the year for the agriculture industry. The National Education Center of Agricultural Safety (NECAS), the agricultural partner of the National Safety Council, has designated September 15-21, 2024, as National Farm Safety and Health Week in partnership with AgriSafe Network and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS).

This annual observance has been in place since 1944. The purpose of the NECAS in general, and the week in particular, is to call attention to the hazards and risks of farm work and promote safe practices to mitigate those hazards. Agricultural field research is subject to most of the same hazards found in family farm operations.

The theme for 2024 is “Don’t Learn Safety By Accident.” Daily emphasis topics focus on a particular hazard area:

- Monday – Equipment & Rural Roadway Safety
- Tuesday – Health & Wellness
- Wednesday – Generations of Farming
- Thursday – Confined Spaces
- Friday – Reporting Ag Injuries

The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) has resources available online through their website such as Farm First Aid Kits designed with farm injuries in mind, online safety training and online rescue programs.

The AgriSafe Network, another group focused on farm safety joins with partners across the US to raise awareness about the safety and health of people working in agriculture. Review the daily webinar topics and register: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-farm-safety-and-health-week-tickets-909891188037?keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-farm-safety-and-health-week-tickets-909891188037?keep_tld=1). Webinars are free but registration is required.

U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers, funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), has produced safety and health videos related to agriculture and other outdoor activities. Popular topics are grain bins, heat illness, tractor rollovers, livestock safety and needlestick injuries. These videos are available through the U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers YouTube channel.

Additional resources are provided by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), a multidisciplinary collaboration of five leading research and health care institutions that work to address existing

and emerging occupational health and safety issues in agriculture. A few of the resources are forms and checklists, links to other farm safety organizations, and a hazard evaluation and mitigation tool.

EHS provides resources on a variety of topics relating to safety while conducting agricultural/outdoor operations under the Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) heading **Ag Safety**. Topics include:

- Nebraska Guide G1770 Cleaning Pesticide Application Equipment
- All-Terrain Vehicles
- Animal Feeding Operations
- Grain Bin Safety
- Harvest Safety
- Outdoor Power Equipment Safety
- Sharps Use and Handling with Livestock
- Skid Steer Loaders
- Tractor Safety.
- And more...

Other SOPs relevant to agricultural/outdoor operations are found online in the SOP categories **Heat Stress**, **Landscape**, **Shops**, and **General/Other**.

## Resources

- EHS **Ag Safety** Safe Operating Procedures  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/ag-safety>
- AgriSafe Network <https://www.agrisafe.org/nfshw/>
- UMASH National Farm Safety and Health Week  
<https://umash.umn.edu/national-farm-safety-and-health-week-2024/>
- NECAS *National Farm Safety and Health Week 2024*  
<https://www.necasag.org/nationalfarmsafetyandhealthweek/>
- U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health Centers videos  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/USagCenters>
  
- **The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety** video and webinar series  
(<https://www.necasag.org/safetytraining/videosandwebinars/>) provides safety information on a variety of topics such as:
  - Chainsaw Safety
  - Fatigue Safety
  - PTO Safety
  - Farm Electrical Safety
  - Auger Safety
  - Rural Road Safety
  - Unloading and Loading Trailer Safety...and more.

## 6. NOTE: Many Updated Safe Operating Procedures

The following SOPs have been updated to reflect changes by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to the Hazard Communication Standard.

- **Chemical Hazard Assessment & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-chemical\\_haz\\_assessment\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-chemical_haz_assessment_risk_min.pdf)
- **Explosive Chemical Hazards & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-explosive\\_chem\\_haz\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-explosive_chem_haz_risk_min.pdf)
- **Gases Under Pressure Hazards & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-gases\\_under\\_pressure\\_haz\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-gases_under_pressure_haz_risk_min.pdf)
- **Hazards of Flammable Gases, Liquids & Aerosols**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-hazards\\_flam\\_gases\\_liq\\_aeros\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-hazards_flam_gases_liq_aeros_risk_min.pdf)
- **Health Hazards Hazard Assessment & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-health\\_hazards\\_haz\\_assessment\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-health_hazards_haz_assessment_risk_min.pdf)
- **Organic Peroxides Chemical Hazards & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-organic\\_peroxides\\_chem\\_haz\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-organic_peroxides_chem_haz_risk_min.pdf)
- **Oxidizers Chemical Hazards & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-oxidizers\\_chem\\_haz\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-oxidizers_chem_haz_risk_min.pdf)
- **Personal Protective Equipment for Chemical Exposures**  
<https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-ppe.pdf>
- **Pyrophoric Liquids and Solids and Substances that Emit Flammable Gases When in Contact With Water – Hazards and Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-pyrophoric\\_%26\\_substances.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-pyrophoric_%26_substances.pdf)
- **Self-Heating Substances Hazards & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-self-heating\\_substances\\_haz\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-self-heating_substances_haz_risk_min.pdf)

- **Self-Reactive Substances & Mixtures Hazards & Risk Minimization**  
[https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-self-reactive\\_subst\\_Mixtures\\_haz\\_risk\\_min.pdf](https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-self-reactive_subst_Mixtures_haz_risk_min.pdf)

**Additional SOP Updated:**

- **On-the-Job and Student Injuries** <https://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-injury.pdf>  
Updated to reflect that Company Care Clinic has closed.

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

**Environmental Health and Safety**

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