

**In this issue of the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Listserv –
December 3, 2025**

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1. NEW SOP – 3D Printing Safety

The new Safe Operating Procedure, **3D Printing Safety**, is directed at small 3-D printers commonly encountered in design labs, research labs, libraries, and similar spaces on campus that use material extrusion or vat photopolymerization technology. Core facilities such as Innovation Studio and Metal Additive Manufacturing in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering are beyond the scope of this SOP.

Resources

- EHS Safe Operating Procedure, **3D Printing Safety**
https://go.unl.edu/sop_3dprinting
- Underwriters Laboratories Inc., Georgia Institute of Technology, & Chemical Insights. (2020). *3D printer School Safety: A guide for supporting indoor air quality & human health* (By Underwriters Laboratories Inc.).
<https://ehs.osu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/3D-Printer-School-Safety-2020.pdf>
- Bell-Huff, C., Black, M., Borton, M., Corrigan, M., Ceas, P., Davis, S., Elwood, S., Fitzpatrick, M., Henderson, H., Howell, S., Huhn, E., Kim, C., Lawson, A., Schaufele, M., Sharp, M., Syfert, T., Welmaker, B., Zhang, Q., Underwriters Laboratories Inc., . . . Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA). (2023b). *Guidance Document on the Safe use of 3D printing for institutions of Higher Education*. https://chemicalinsights.ul.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UL-200B_1.pdf
- NIOSH [2023]. Approaches to safe 3D printing: a guide for makerspace users, schools, libraries, and small businesses. By Hodson L, Dunn KL, Dunn KH, Glassford E, Hammond D, Roth G. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for

2. Holiday Safety Guidance

The holiday season is beginning. To keep the season festive, think about safety during your holiday preparations and activities. Here are some tips to avoid hazards and keep the holiday season “merry.”

Hanging lights/decorations:

- To decorate areas beyond your reach, use the proper ladder or stepstool. EHS Ladder Safety Safe Operating Procedure provides guidance.
- Inspect the ladder to be sure it has non-skid feet, no visible damage, and has the proper rating to hold not only your weight but also the weight of the decorations/tools you will be using.
- Make sure stepladders are fully unfolded prior to use. Do not stand on the top rung, climb on the backside of the ladder, or lean out to the side of the ladder.

Electrical hazards:

- Carefully inspect holiday lights and discard or recycle any lights or other decorations with frayed or nicked cords or loose connections. Always turn off holiday lights, both indoors and outside, when you leave the house unattended or retire for the night.
- Do not use power strips in series for indoor holiday electrical needs. Instead, arrange items so power strips can be plugged directly into a permanently installed outlet.
- When purchasing/using light strings, extension cords, spotlights, or electrical decorations, look for the certification mark of an accrediting organization such as UL (Underwriter’s Laboratories).
- Do not use extension cords in series, rather use a cord long enough to reach the outlet without stretching, but not so long as to become easily tangled. Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground-fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.
- When hanging outdoor lights keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal rain gutters. Use insulated tape or plastic clips to hold them in place, not metal nails or tacks. Ensure your lights or other decorations and cords are rated for outdoor use.

Fire safety:

- Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors if you have not recently done so and make sure that they are UL-listed.
- Choose a Christmas tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Water the tree daily. Keep the tree at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, portable heaters, candles, or other heat sources. When purchasing an artificial tree look for the label “Fire Resistant.”
- Use noncombustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Observe instructions on the number of light strands that can be safely connected.
- Make sure trees and other decorations do not block exits.
- Do not burn wrapping paper in a fireplace. Keep candles away from decorations and other things that can burn. Two of every five home decoration fires start with candles. Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), every year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,800 people for falls, cuts, shocks, and burns due to incidents involving faulty holiday lights, dried-out Christmas trees and other holiday decorations. Stay safe and merry this holiday season by following the tips provided.

Resources

- EHS Ladder Safety SOP https://go.unl.edu/sop_laddersafety
- EHS General Electrical Safety SOP https://go.unl.edu/sop_genlectricalsafety
- NFPA “Heating Safety Tips” <https://www.nfpa.org/downloadable-resources/safety-tip-sheets/heating-safety-tip-sheet>
- NFPA “Christmas Tree Safety Tips” <https://www.nfpa.org/downloadable-resources/safety-tip-sheets/christmas-tree-safety-tip-sheet>
- NFPA “Holiday Fire Safety Tips” <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/home-fire-safety/winter-holidays>
- NFPA “Winter Holiday Safety Tip Sheet” <https://www.nfpa.org/downloadable-resources/safety-tip-sheets/winter-holiday-safety-tip-sheet>

- Consumer Products Safety Commission “Holiday Safety”
<https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/holiday-safety>

Video Resources:

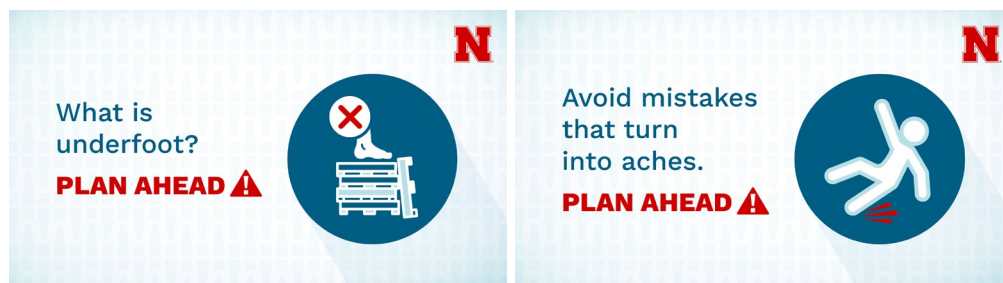
- **Safety Tips for Your Christmas Tree** (WebMD, duration 1:16 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hKqQ5Rf-d0>
- **12 tips for the Winter Holiday Season** (Electrical Safety Foundation International, duration 3:04 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3PA7-XhVO8>
- **Ladder safety for holiday decorating** (OtterTailPowerCo, 3:52 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VX4Zn3g8azw>

3. NEW Safety Graphics – PLAN AHEAD!

Many injury incidents can be avoided by the worker thinking about the task to be performed before starting and taking necessary steps to perform the task safely. The Chancellor’s University Safety Committee, in collaboration with University Communications, has come up with 19 different Plan Ahead Graphics. They may be viewed over time through the Safety Resources area of the EHS website.

Graphics are available in a format/size to print and post or include in your departmental communication. The new graphics are also available in a format suitable for the digital display boards around campus. If you would like a zip file of either size or both for campus use, contact ehs@unl.edu.

Here are samples of a few of the new graphics:





Resources

- EHS Safety Resource: **Plan Ahead** <https://ehs.unl.edu/safety-resources/plan-ahead-graphics/>

4. Safety Shorts - Avoid Lifting Injuries

The following videos provide tips on safe lifting to avoid injury.

- Proper Lifting (Montana State Fund, duration 2:12 min)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gkf4-Y0KZhk>
- Safe Lifting - The Fundamentals of Ergonomics (The Safety Department, duration 6:23 min)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAFgLirvJRw>

NOTE: These resources are provided for informational purposes only. Publication does not endorse a particular company or product or affect current University of Nebraska-Lincoln policies and procedures.

5. Near Miss?

The Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) is reaffirming their goal to focus more intensely on Near Miss/Close Call reporting and to also encourage reporting of unsafe practices. To support that effort, the EHS "*Near Miss/Close Call Incident Reporting Form*" also allows for reporting of unsafe practices. A near miss can also be thought of as a near HIT!

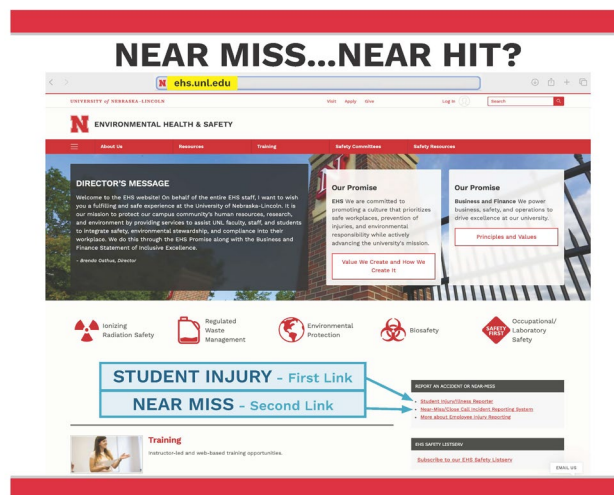
By reporting near misses, "close calls," or unsafe practices, you are contributing to a safer and healthier campus environment. Information reported is shared throughout the University for educational/awareness purposes. Specific identifying information (e.g., names, departments, etc.)

is not included in informational publications. Participation in reporting will benefit the entire campus community. Be assured that there is no risk of repercussions for reporting a situation or hazard.

A “near miss” can also be viewed as a “near hit!” History has shown that most incidents resulting in injury or other loss were preceded by warnings or near miss incidents. Next time you see something and think, “This could have ended up very badly,” report that online to help your fellow workers throughout the university stay safe.

Resources

- Near-Miss/Close Call Incident Reporting Form
<https://ehs.unl.edu/near-missclose-call-incident-reporting-form>



EHS has a new **Near Miss...Near Hit?** poster. Would you like to put these up in your area/department/building as a reminder? Email ehs@unl.edu and let us know how many copies you would like and we will send to you via campus mail

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

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