

Safety Beakon



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LEFT TO RIGHT: Kevin McSweeney, Skip Homiak, Robin Elliott, Robert Jameson, Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Steve Udovich and Alan Robinson

Campus Fire Safety Month Proclamation

Delaware Gov. Ruth Ann Minner and Lt. Gov. John C. Carney, Jr., signed a Campus Fire Safety Month Statement, Sept. 4, 2008, at Wesley College in Dover. With the joint effort of the State Fire Commission, State Fire School, and Campus Safety Officials statewide, this landmark effort announced the importance of Campus Fire Safety to all citizens of Delaware. Much emphasis was placed on leading factors attributed to campus fire deaths such as lack of sprinklers, missing or disabled smoke alarms, careless disposal of smoking materials and impaired judgment due to alcohol consumption. Fortunately, all residence halls and Greek Housing at UD are sprinklered and have addressable fire detection/ alarm systems. Additionally, programs that have originated from the cooperative efforts of RESLIFE and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), such as the Fire Protection Prohibited Items list and Resident Assistant Training program have aided in the reduction of fire occurrences on our campus.

Governor Minner urges all schools and municipalities to provide fire safety education to all students and to evaluate the level of fire safety for on- and off-campus residents. OHS/Fire Protection is constantly striving to reach the student population by increasing training programs, gathering student feedback, and developing new ways to spread the importance of fire safety. For more information, please contact Kevin McSweeney at kmscween@udel.edu.

Our New Team:

Campus and Public Safety Reorganization of OHS

Effective August 18, 2008, The UD Campus and Public Safety was created with the appointment of Albert "Skip" Homiak as Executive Director. Skip is a Delaware native and had a 26-year career with the Delaware State Police where he achieved rank as major. He brings a broad range of experience both in safety and management. The Department of Occupational Health and Safety will now report to this new unit, as will Public Safety and Emergency Planning. Each of these areas has overlapping responsibilities, which makes this alignment a logical choice. Many of you have probably already met Marcia Nickle, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, at Safety Committee meetings. With this new assignment, OHS and Public Safety are becoming more involved in the emergency planning efforts that Marcia is coordinating with the City of Newark planning, fire, and police personnel. Additionally, Campus and Public Safety is holding joint meetings, attending training sessions together, and planning a new Web site for the unit that will link to each department's Web sites. Also, our coordinated effort has been integrated into poster programs, and soon you will see articles from both groups in this and future issues of the OHS Safety Beakon. We are all excited about the future and what will be accomplished with our new team.

REMINDERS:

- Get your **flu shots**
- Contact OHS for info about **compact fluorescent light bulb disposal**
- Review **Emergency Guide** in new phone book (p. 25-27)

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CHEMICAL HYGIENE: EYE SAFETY

Across the United States, over 2000 eye injuries occur every day: 10-20% of these injuries result in temporary or permanent blindness.* Use of eye protection is one effective way to reduce the chance of an eye injury in the workplace. The University recognized the importance of eye safety and created Policy 7-23 [www.udel.edu/ExecVP/polprod/7-23.html]. It states that eye protection is required at all times when an eye hazard exists. Eye hazards exist in all research and teaching laboratories and require eye protection when entering the space.

Although there has been a decrease in eye injuries, a recent incident involved a researcher that had a chemical splashed into her eye when she placed a pipette on the laboratory bench. She had just removed her safety glasses prior to the incident. Continued use of eye protection would have prevented this exposure. OHS recommends that all Faculty, researchers, staff, and students obtain comfortable eye protection that they are able to wear for extended periods of time. The campus storerooms, operated by Fisher Scientific, have numerous types and styles of safety glasses on display. Users can try them on to assure that the safety glasses fit and are comfortable.

Departments, Faculty and researchers must be diligent and wear the required eye protection while working in a laboratory, working with hazardous material or while performing a hazardous operation. Loss of sight can happen in the blink of an eye and cause a permanent, debilitating, life-altering injury.

*Prevent Blindness America www.preventblindness.org/safety/worksafe.html

PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

By Guest Author: Chief James Flatley, University Public Safety

The University of Delaware's Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce that we have 12 new police officers joining our ranks. Eight of the new officers graduated from the New Castle County Police Academy on July 31, 2008, and the other four officers graduated from the Delaware State Police Academy on August 29, 2008. Currently the new officers have been paired with a veteran officer and will go through a twelve-week field-training program.

The addition of these new officers brings supplementary personnel to each patrol squad, another detective for the investigations unit, and the initiation of a new community-oriented policing squad. Although these new additions to the department are helping to allocate personnel more effectively, UD Public Safety is not done. The department is currently conducting another process to hire even more police officers. We feel that this new growth is essential and will help raise the level of safety and security of the University community we serve.

GOING GREEN FOR THE WINTER: Simple Energy Tips Can Save You Money

The winter months are just around the corner, and there is no better time to start preparing for ways to reduce your energy consumption. There are many opportunities for homeowners to conserve energy and save money at the same time. Consider any of these simple ideas:

- Install a programmable thermostat: Easy to install and when used properly, a programmable thermostat with 4-temperature and time settings can save up to \$100 each year on energy costs.
- Dress more warmly in the house and reduce the temperature on the thermostat. A reduction of one degree can result in 3% energy cost savings.
- Install energy efficient compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. Depending upon use, one CFL bulb can save between \$3 and \$10 per year versus using an incandescent bulb.
- Choose ENERGY STAR® products when replacing or purchasing new appliances. These products are designed and manufactured to be more energy efficient.
- Install and repair weather-stripping and caulk around drafty doors and windows, and install gaskets behind outlet covers.
- Routinely replace filters (recommended monthly) on your heating and cooling system to improve operational efficiency and prevent system damage.

Please go to www.delmarva.com/energy/conservation/tips/ for more energy saving tips.



EMERGENCY PLANNING "HOTWIRE"

What's Going On?

By Guest Author: Marcia Nickle, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

The University of Delaware is making strides in planning for emergencies. Over the summer, academic units were invited to a series of introductory presentations on emergency planning and, as a result of those presentations, are currently working on individual emergency plans for their departments or colleges. These plans are due in draft form by January 1, 2009.

In order to test some of the University-wide campus safety plans that have recently been developed, UD participated in a regional exercise titled "Operation Hotwire" in October. This exercise included entities from the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The scenario focused around a long-term power outage that affected much of the East Coast (similar to the Northeast Blackout of 2003). The University tested their internal and external communications plan, their Emergency Operations Center site and plans for backup power generation on campus. The University hopes to participate in future exercises with the City of Newark, New Castle County and the State of Delaware.

WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

Well, it's that time again. Soon the temperatures will be dropping and the snow will be falling. Here are just a few safety tips to consider as winter approaches:

- Don't drive when fatigued. Driving in bad weather adds to your stress level.
- Only drive if it is absolutely necessary. Check weather and road reports regularly.
- Make certain your vehicle is up to the task. Check tire condition and pressure, the condition of wiper blades, top off washing fluid, have the antifreeze checked, and have the

exhaust system inspected.

- Keep your gas tank greater than half-full to prevent gas line freeze ups.
- Never warm up a vehicle in a closed in area such as a garage. Carbon monoxide can build up rapidly.
- Take the time to thoroughly clean off the windshield and windows so that you have full visibility on the road.
- Avoid using your parking brake in wet, freezing conditions to prevent locked wheels.
- Do not use cruise control in wet, snowy, or



icy conditions. You can easily lose control of the vehicle if it accelerates.

- Always look and steer where you want to go.
- Always use your seatbelt.
- Slow down and increase your distance from the car in front of you.
- On slippery road surfaces, try to keep your vehicle moving rather than coming to a complete stop. You are more likely to have trouble starting back up from a complete stop.

For those with four-wheel drive vehicles, remember that the four-wheelers might be able to go where two-wheel drive vehicles cannot, but they do not stop any better!

Most of these recommendations come from AAA. A little planning and a little extra time can greatly improve a safe journey in winter weather.

WORD SEARCH

Winter Driving

- ACCELERATE SEATBELT
- ANTIFREEZE SLIPPERY
- DRIVE STEER
- EXHAUST VEHICLE
- FATIGUE VISIBILITY
- FREEZING WEATHER
- JOURNEY WINDSHIELD
- PRESSURE WINTER



ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT

**By Guest Author: Gary Stokes,
Director, Risk Management/Rental Housing**

Robert M. Specter, Vice President for Finance, has appointed an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Task Force to increase the campus community's risk awareness and understanding of risk ownership, and to foster the integration of ERM principles into routine planning and decision making. Furthermore, the Task Force is charged with conceiving and conducting a high-level enterprise-wide risk assessment, and reporting the results.

ERM is a coordinated approach to assess, analyze, mitigate, and monitor risks and opportunities that affect the achievement of the University's strategic and financial objectives. Historically, risks have been viewed as something to avoid or eliminate. ERM takes a broader view to evaluate both the risk and opportunities the University faces on its Path to Prominence™.

For the University to optimize the benefits of its strategic opportunities and to minimize the cost associated risks, an enterprise-wide risk management culture needs to be embedded into University activities. The ERM framework will help ensure that decisions will align with University strategy and the University's overall risk tolerance.

Chairing the task force is Ramona Adams, Assistant Vice President for Receipts/Real Estate/Risk Management. Members are Robin Elliott, Director of Occupational Health and Safety, Ian Janssen, Director of University Archives and Records Management, Marcia Nickle, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Gary Stokes, Director of Risk Management, and Michael Vaughan, Senior Assistant Dean of Engineering.

A website established to promote ERM to the University community can be found at:

www.udel.edu/taskforce/risk/index.html



LOOK WHO'S SAFE Kate Pohlig

Kate Pohlig, the Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation Services, is the model for all safety chairs to emulate. Through her drive and desire for safety program observance in the buildings and programs of Athletics, her safety committee has excelled in all areas of safety program compliance. As a pillar of safety excellence for nearly 20 years, she achieved great success by involving her managers and supervisors in safety initiatives, and delegating authority to them for their prescribed areas. Although authority may have been delegated, Kate is always attentive to the slightest potential of harm that might occur to her staff and the patrons they serve. Her performance as Safety Chair is unsurpassed. Thank you Kate for your dedicated service to safety!



TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR UPCOMING DOHS COURSES

All trainings in GSB 130 unless otherwise specified.

NOVEMBER 2008

Bloodborne Pathogens Training	by appt.
Computer Workstation Ergonomics Training	by appt.
X-Ray Safety Training	by appt.
5 Biosafety Training	11am-12pm
Right-to-Know/Chemical Hygiene Training for Lab Workers	1-2pm
6 Chemical Waste Training	1-2pm
7 Initial Radioactive Material Safety Training Part 2	9-11am
11 CPR - Heartsaver AED <i>Cost of this class is \$30.00</i>	6-9pm
Laser Safety Training	3-4:30pm
Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training	9-10am
13 Compressed Gas Safety Training	10-11am
Fume Hood Safety Training	11am-12pm
14 Environmental Programs at the University of Delaware	9-10am
Stormwater Quality Training	11am-12pm
15 CPR - Healthcare Provider <i>Cost of this class is \$40.00</i>	9am-3pm
17 Reactive Chemical Safety Training	1-2pm
Toxic Chemical Safety Training	2-3pm
21 Power Industrial Trucks Training	9am-12pm
24 Fire Extinguisher Safety Training	2-3:30pm
Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training	3:30-4:30pm
25 Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training	11am-12pm

DECEMBER 2008

Bloodborne Pathogens Training	by appt.
Computer Workstation Ergonomics Training	by appt.
X-Ray Safety Training	by appt.
2 Laser Safety Training	3-4:30pm
3 Initial Radioactive Material Safety Training Part 2	1-3pm
5 Biosafety Training	2-3pm
Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training - Lewes (Cannon 104)	10-11am
6 CPR - Healthcare Provider <i>Cost of this class is \$40.00</i>	9am-3pm
9 Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training	9-10am
10 Chemical Waste Training	1-2pm
11 Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training	2-3pm
Right-to-Know/Chemical Hygiene Training for Lab Workers	1-2pm
12 Stormwater Quality Training	11am-12pm
15 Fire Extinguisher Safety Training	2-3:30pm
16 & 18 CPR - First Aid and CPR <i>(2 Part Class) Cost of this class is \$50.00</i>	6-9pm
16 Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training	3:30-4:30pm

Check out our Web page:
www.udel.edu/ohs

JANUARY 2009

Bloodborne Pathogens Training	by appt.
Computer Workstation Ergonomics Training	by appt.
X-Ray Safety Training	by appt.
5 Right-to-Know/Chemical Hygiene Training for Lab Workers	10-11:30am
6 CPR - Heartsaver AED <i>Cost of this class is \$30.00</i>	6-9pm
8 CPR- First Aid Class <i>Cost of the class is \$30.00</i>	6-9pm
9 Asbestos and/or Lead Based Paint Awareness Training	9-10am
Near Miss Reporting	3-4pm
13 Laser Safety Training	3-4pm
14 Initial Radioactive Material Safety Training Part 2	9-10:30am
15 Chemical Waste Training	1-2pm
Compressed Gas Safety Training	2-3pm
New Graduate Student Orientation Training	3-4pm
16 Power Industrial Trucks Training	9-12:30pm
Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training - Lewes (Cannon 104)	10-11am
20 Radioactive Material Safety Refresher Training	9-10am
22 Proper Lifting Refresher Training	10-11am
Laboratory Ventilation Safety Training	2-3pm
Toxic Chemical Safety Training	11am-12pm
23 Reactive Chemical Safety Training	10-11am
Stormwater Quality Training	11am-12pm
24 CPR - Healthcare Provider <i>Cost of this class is \$40.00</i>	9am-3pm
29 Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Training	2-3pm
31 CPR - BLS Instructors Course <i>Cost of this class is \$100.00</i>	8am-4pm

LESSONS LEARNED: UNATTENDED COOKING

Unattended cooking continues to be one of the leading causes of fires throughout the United States. This year at UD, cooking-related incidents are a leading cause of fire alarm activations in our residence halls. In a typical scenario: a student starts food preparation and momentarily steps away while food is heating up. This often happens when the student is using a microwave oven. The student is often multi-tasking; studying, checking e-mail or internet surfing, or stepping away to make a phone call. When the food overheats, the smoke alarm in the student's room activates. Other times, wisps of smoke reach the corridor smoke detector and the entire building goes into a "General" alarm and the building must be evacuated.

Our fire protection staff continues an on-going effort to prevent unwanted fire alarms in the residence halls. Housing Assignments Office requires graduate students residing in Conover Apartments and Graduate House to attend fire prevention orientation/fire extinguisher training.



OHS' Fire Protection Staff schedules one-on-one meetings with students who are victimized by fire alarm events. Also, new stove units are being purchased and equipped with a stovetop Safe-T-Element™ to reduce unwanted alarms and unattended cooking fire incidents.

Fire safety in our residence halls is priority one. A reduction of leading fire alarm incidents goes a long way in fire prevention and increases the students' faith in the performance of their fire alarm systems. It will take a combined effort of the residence hall population and OHS to gain the upper hand on unattended cooking incidents. For more information on Campus Fire Safety, contact Kevin McSweeney at 831-6847.

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