

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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Hearing Prevention- There's an app for that!

Have you ever wondered if an area where you work or a specific tool you use is too loud for unprotected ears? Maybe your office is in an area with a lot of construction work? Well now there is an app to help you measure sound!

The CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has announced the launch of a new app for iOS devices that can measure sound levels to help the user learn about their noise exposure on a daily basis. The goal of the app is to reduce the chances of hearing loss by increasing awareness and assisting industrial hygienists, occupational safety and health managers, and workers who may not have access to professional sound measurement instruments.

NIOSH estimates that 22 million workers are exposed to harmful noise levels every year,

and an estimated \$242 million is spent annually on workers' compensation claims for hearing loss disability. It is no wonder why so much research has gone into measuring, detecting, and preventing hearing loss.

The app can read sound levels through either the built-in microphone or an external microphone and reports the sound level in weighted decibels. It can also collect noise exposure data that can then be downloaded and shared with managers or occupational safety and health staff. It provides important information such as the recommended exposure limits (REL) for various hazards based on the best available science and practice. The REL for noise is 85 decibels for an 8-hour time-weighted average. Exposures at or above this level are considered hazardous to a worker's hearing.



For more information, please visit :

- [NIOSH Noise and Hearing Loss Prevention](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

To install the NIOSH Sound Level Meter app on your iOS device, visit the [iTunes App Store](#).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

(Click links for more information)

- April 1** - Physics and Engineering Festival
- April 22** - Brazos Valley Earth Day
- April 29** - Household Hazardous Waste Collection

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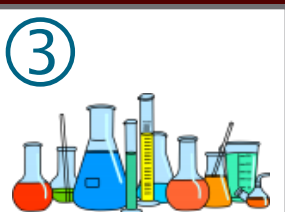
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Spring Time is Severe Weather Time!



During spring, the axis of the Earth starts to tilt toward the sun, which causes the hours of daylight to increase for those in the Northern Hemisphere. Though there are many wonderful things about the season, spring weather can include tornadoes, lightning, floods, and the warmest temperatures of the year thus far. Tornadoes are considered one of nature's most violent storms, can form in a matter of seconds, and can cause damage paths in excess of one mile. The devastating heavy rain, high winds, and several tornadoes that pounded Bryan/College Station last year are a vivid example of the power severe weather can unleash. Dozens of homes were damaged, some completely destroyed, and the city of Bryan was declared a local state of disaster. When a "Tornado Warning" is issued, a tornado has either been sighted or is indicated by weather radar. You may only have minutes to find shelter before it strikes, so practice tornado drills at your workplace and at home to be prepared.

Flash flooding is the number one danger to life associated with severe weather. In May of last year, widespread flooding in Texas killed 17 people. Just 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. Just 12 inches of rushing water can carry away a small car, and two feet of rushing water is enough to carry away most vehicles. The CDC reports that over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. Remember: **TURN AROUND; DON'T DROWN.**

For more information, visit the National Weather Service's [weather safety page](#).

FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Flammable substance
4. Used to put out fire
6. Act or process of preventing
7. Protected from harm
12. Device that warns of some danger
13. Act of protecting
16. Quick to notice and react
17. Form of energy that makes something very warm
19. Structure for passing smoke

DOWN

2. Device that makes electricity using chemical reaction
3. Heat, light, and flames made from something that burns
5. Visible black, gray, or white gasses given off by something that is burning
8. Large area of land covered with many trees
9. Clear liquid that has no taste or odor
10. Heating fuel
11. Emergency medical Services
14. Move away from a dangerous place
15. Plan for two of these routes from each room
18. Mixture of burning gas and vapor that rises from an object on fire



By Evelyn Johnson—www.qets.com

Bat Safety

Texas A&M University campus has a significant bat population, and they are commonly found in buildings, residence halls, and athletic complexes. Bats are considered high risk for rabies and should never be touched. In addition, a few species found in Texas are considered endangered or threatened and should not be disturbed.

If you come in contact with a bat, find one dead or alive in or around a campus building, or see a live bat anywhere that cannot fly, call the Facilities Services Communication Center at (979) 845-4311.

Remember to close all windows and doors to help keep bats and other animals from entering buildings. For more information about bats and rabies, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services Infectious Disease Control website: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/>



LABORATORY HAZARDS

Unfortunately, it can sometimes take an accident or “near miss” to make you aware of the risks involved numerous daily activities inside the laboratory. Fortunately, Environmental Health and Safety’s Laboratory Safety group performs annual safety inspections of all campus labs to help recognize hazards and point out significant deficiencies that pose an immediate risk or items of concern with the potential to become a hazard. A thorough inspection is conducted and safety equipment is tested to ensure adequate operation. Once the inspection is complete, however, it is up to researchers, lab supervisors, and lab staff to maintain a safe work environment.

EHS recommends internal safety inspections of your own labs on a routine basis. This can include a quick walk-through weekly or even daily, as reassurance that chemical storage guidelines are being met, checking PPE and safety equipment, maintaining general housekeeping practices, etc. The best way to prevent an accident is to know the hazards in your lab and know how to evaluate potential risk.

Now let’s look at this photo taken in a laboratory and assess what fire and life safety hazards may be present:

- Cardboard boxes/storage blocking electrical panel.
- Access to shut off power in an emergency is blocked.
- If an electrical fire started inside the panel, there is a large amount of combustibile material near it to burn.

Many times, lab workers have no idea where the electrical panel is located in their laboratory. It is important to be aware of the power shut-off for all equipment and the main breaker in the lab. Ensure a clear path to the electrical panel and good housekeeping practices are maintained at all times.

Fire codes require a 36 inch clearance in front of electrical panels.

For more information regarding laboratory safety, visit the [EHS Laboratory Safety page](#).



Get to Know Us



Charlotte Bajoie is a Coordinator for Environmental Health & Safety. She is responsible for helping coordinate, develop, and manage environmental, health, and safety programs for AgriLife Research and Extension. Charlotte compiles reports as required by federal, state, and Texas A&M System requirements. She participates in environmental inspections and audits. Since joining the Texas A&M University EHS team, she has become ICS-400 certified and is a member of the EHS Hazmat Team. She is a 1981 graduate of Louisiana State University-Monroe (Northeast Louisiana University) - Journalism. In 1988 she began working at Halliburton Energy Services, and for the past 10 years prior to joining EHS she was a Field Employee Development Coordinator for the Kilgore and Victoria districts. Charlotte spends most of her free time outdoors; she loves biking, rollerblading, traveling, and playing volleyball! She also enjoys attending any of the sporting events she can get a ticket to here at TAMU!



Alvin Walker is an Occupational Safety and Health Inspector II. He has worked for EHS since 2003. Alvin came to us from GERG (Geochemical Research Group) with 13 years of supervising research laboratories and training staff members and graduate students in laboratory safety and procedures. He has been employed with Texas A&M University for 27 years. Alvin attended Prairie View University with a major in Animal Science. He performs annual laboratory inspections for compliance and conducts fume hood certifications. He works closely with University Services, Energy Management and Researchers to make sure fume hoods are in good repair and working properly. He assists the training of new employees. He is HAZWOPER certified and holds numerous certificates in safety training.

Don't forget to keep up with EHS...

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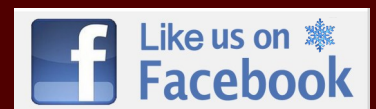
EHS webpage



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EHS
The Environment

“Get acquainted” – Being prepared for emergencies

Have you recently moved to a new building or office? Maybe you’ve been in the same work space for years and only know of one exit in your building... do you come in one door in the morning and out the same door at the end of the day? If you have been on campus long enough, then you have more than likely experienced a routine fire/evacuation drill. Knowing what to do and where to go is pertinent for your personal safety in an emergency situation. Take some time to explore your building and locate emergency exit signs and find pull stations. Familiarize yourself with locations in your building best for shelter in an event such as tornadoes. Talk to your supervisor or building proctor about specific protocols for your building. You can find procedures for a number of emergency situations such as, fire, chemical spill, severe weather, active shooter and bomb threats by visiting the [Texas A&M Emergency Preparedness website](#).

What to do in an Emergency...

Did you know that you no longer have to dial “9” before “911” from a campus phone to reach emergency responders? You can now dial “911” from any cell phone or campus location in an emergency.

Subscribe to the Emergency Notification System “Code Maroon” to receive emergency alerts (<http://codemaroon.tamu.edu>).

The time for preparation is before a crisis. In addition to online resources, the Office of Safety & Security, along with the University Police Department and Environmental Health & Safety, can provide assistance to you and your organization to prepare for emergency situations. We provide:

- Emergency Preparedness Training upon request
- Assistance with [Continuity of Operations Planning](#) (Business Continuity)
- [Templates](#) for Building Emergency Plans
- [University Police](#) - Crime Prevention

For more information, contact the [Office of Safety & Security](#).



SAFETY SOUNDOFF

On Monday February 13th, just before 7am, a one-car accident occurred on FM 2818 near Easterwood Airport. The driver of this car swerved to avoid an object in the roadway (later determined to be a plastic chair) and in the wet conditions lost control of the vehicle, which rolled onto its top in the grassy area next to the road.

Brian Garrett, former Control Systems Technician with Texas A&M Utilities & Energy Services (UES), arrived to the scene soon after the accident and had to swerve to avoid the bumper of the damaged vehicle. The bumper had been thrown free of the car and into traffic.

Brian and another passing motorist stopped to render aid to the victims of the rollover accident. Brian retrieved the car's bumper from the lane of traffic to prevent additional accidents from occurring and worked with the other motorist that stopped to tend to the victims. The driver of the rolled vehicle was out of the car and upright when Brian and the other motorist reached him. He may have been ejected from the vehicle during the rollover. Two children were in the backseat, one about 12 years of age and the other younger than 1 year old. They were both conscious, so Brian was able to instruct the older child to carefully remove the infant from the child safety seat, and both rescuers assisted the children in exiting the vehicle. They stayed with the family until the fire department and EMS arrived on scene.

Thanks to Brian Garrett for springing into action to assist people in need and make the roadway safer for other drivers in the area.

Bicycle Safety on Campus

If you travel to and from campus by bicycle you must follow state laws, give signals, obey stop signs and yield right of way-just as vehicle drivers do. You can be cited for traveling the wrong way down a one-way street. Do not operate bicycles in parking garages, bring them inside buildings, or ride in any area where bicycles are restricted by regulation or signs. Be aware and obey all dismount zones on campus.



With all of the construction on campus, make sure you map out your route beforehand and know what areas to avoid. A map with current construction projects can be found at <http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/>. Do not attempt to cut through road blocks and other safety barriers. These are present to ensure your safety as well as the safety of the construction workers.

Utilize Bike Maintenance Stations in general locations on campus equipped with a bike stand, tools, and bike pump. By maintaining your equipment, you decrease the risk of an accident. Don't have a bike? You can lease one from Transportation Services for \$50/ semester, or you can borrow a bike for FREE for a day, up to 12 times per semester.

Celebrate Earth Day with Transportation Services, Texas A&M University, and the Environmental Issues Committee on April 22 for the first annual Day to Ride! Ride your bike to school or work, for running errands, to exercise, or just for fun in a local park! Like [Texas A&M Day to Ride on Facebook](#) for all your Day-To-Ride information.

For more information about bicycle safety, guidelines, and services offered, please visit, <http://transport.tamu.edu/Alternative/bicycles/services.aspx>

Spring Cleaning! Household Hazardous Waste & Computer Collection Event with Book Drive

April 29, 2017 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Location: Texas A&M University Services Building parking lot

Directions: Enter east of Hwy 6, on Harvey Road/HWY 30

For a full list of accepted HHW materials visit <http://twinoakslandfill.com/hhw-accepted-items/>. Please follow these guidelines for handling and transporting household hazardous waste:

- Store products upright in original containers
- Never mix products
- Identify the content if labels are missing
- Place leaking containers in larger containers and use cat litter as an absorbent to clean up spill
- Keep products in a dry cool place
- Do not transport or store hazardous waste near children or pets

Along with your household hazardous wastes, please bring new or used books along with any monetary donations to be donated to a local non-profit organization- [Books and a Blanket](#).

SAFETY DISPATCH

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EHS Programs:

- Agricultural Safety
- Asbestos
- AEDs
- Chemical Waste
- Emergency Management
- Environmental Management
- Ergonomics
- Fire & Life Safety
- Food Safety
- Hazardous Material Shipping
- Hearing Conservation
- Indoor Air Quality
- Industrial Hygiene
- Laboratory Safety
- Occupational Health
- Occupational Safety
- Radiological Safety
- Respiratory Protection
- Scientific Diving

Environmental Health & Safety is a department within the Office of Safety and Security in the Division of Finance and Administration. Click [here](#) to provide feedback.

EHS Training Schedule

Click on a date below to register for classroom training:

General RAM	4/11, 5/10
Introduction to Laboratory Safety	4/6, 5/8
General Awareness DOT/IATA	4/20, 5/18

Interested in other trainings?

See the list of currently offered courses (online and classroom) on the [EHS training page](#) or call 979-845-2132 to inquire about additional topics.

DID

The agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector is the most dangerous industry with 24.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers, higher than transportation and construction combined.

More people are injured using hand tools than power tools.

YOU

Recycling your home's waste newsprint, cardboard, glass, and metal can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 850 pounds a year.

Only 1% of the world's water supply can be used for consumption; 97% is in the ocean and 2% is frozen.

KNOW?

! We need to hear from you !

Notice a safety concern that affects you or your department? Have an environmental, health, or safety question you would like answered? Have a topic in mind that you want to see in the next issue of *Safety Dispatch*? **Let us know!**

Enter to win a great spring prize...

After completing the crossword puzzle on page 2, unscramble the circled letters to form a 9-letter word related to fire prevention:

For a chance to win a prize, email your answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.