

SAFETY DISPATCH

Hurricane Season: Are You Prepared?



Hurricane Rita near Texas coast (2005). NOAA satellite image.

INSIDE:

Sustainable Office Initiative

Page 2

Preventing Mosquito-Related Disease

Page 2

New Standards for Safety Equipment

Page 3

Mark Your Calendar

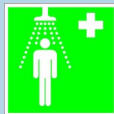
Page 3

Keeping Up With Environmental Health & Safety

Page 3

Win a Great Summer Prize

Page 4



June 1st officially marks the start of the annual Atlantic hurricane season. Although the chance of a hurricane impacting the continental United States can occur anytime between June and the end of November, the season usually peaks between late August and early September.

According to the National Weather Service Hurricane Center, a hurricane is a type of tropical storm or cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface wind speed is 74 mph or more. There are 5 categories of hurricanes based on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. With the increase in wind speeds, there comes an increase in potential damage.

Locally, we can be affected by inland flooding, high winds, and tornadoes as a result of a hurricane. This can cause a loss of utilities like electricity, water, and wastewater. During Hurricane Ike, some communities surrounding Bryan/College Station were without power for several weeks. How should you prepare?

Ready.gov recommends the following:

- Build an emergency kit
- Make a family communications plan
- Know your surroundings and local hazards
- Make plans to secure your property (especially if you choose to evacuate)
- Cover all your home's windows
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed

- Reinforce garage doors
- Plan to bring all outdoor furniture and trash cans inside
- Listen to radio or TV for information

Basic Emergency Supply Kits

- Water: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- Food: at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio, NOAA weather radio with tone alert, and extra batteries for both
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Manual can opener for food

More info:

TAMU Emergency Preparedness

Ready.gov

National Hurricane Center

EHS: A SUSTAINABLE OFFICE

Environmental Health and Safety recently received a 2-star rating through the Sustainable Office Certification program implemented by the Office of Sustainability. The program is designed to help make Texas A&M's faculty and staff more aware of sustainable practices and to bring attention to waste.



Each office that participates is provided a list of tasks in several different categories. Completed tasks provide points for the office toward the overall rating. These range from setting up a recycling area and purchasing recycled paper to participating in a campus event such as Stream Clean or Big Event. Here are a few of the tasks that can be implemented:

- Ensure the office is recycling all excess paper.
- Motivate employees to turn off their computers at night and use energy saving modes during the day.
- Unplug all small appliances, e.g. toasters, personal printers, etc.
- Encourage paperless meetings.
- Create your own office "Bring your own bottle day" (B.Y.O.B. Day).

- Evaluate the ability for your staff to car pool.
- Create your own sustainable office tip of the month.

Offices can also get innovation points by creating something out of the norm for a sustainable practice. After the initial paperwork has been completed, the Office of Sustainability will review and conduct an audit to assign a rating. Everyone that participates will also receive a free gift. An annual audit will be conducted thereafter to reevaluate how the office is doing and if any new practices have been implemented to raise the rating.

If your office or department is interested in participating in the program, you can get more information here:

[Office of Sustainability](#)
[Sustainable Office Certification](#)
[Email the Office of Sustainability](#)

Not Just West Nile Virus...

Other mosquito-related diseases emerge in Texas

Though West Nile Virus has been a known concern among Bryan/College Station residents in the past, other lesser-known arboviruses have recently been identified in animals and humans in Texas. Cases of Chikungunya, Dengue Fever, and Saint Louis Encephalitis have already been reported this year.

Avoiding mosquito bites is the first line of defense against any of these potentially life-threatening diseases. Remember to...

- Dress appropriately (long sleeves, pants while outdoors).
- Avoid activities at dawn and dusk (when mosquitoes are most active).
- Use mosquito repellant that contains DEET.
- Drain standing water (use mosquito dunks where appropriate).

More information:

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

[Arbovirus Information](#)
[Chikungunya Information](#)
[Arbovirus Weekly Activity Reports](#)
[West Nile Virus FAQ](#)

Local Resources:

[City of Bryan Mosquito Abatement Program](#)
[City of College Station Mosquito Abatement Program](#)
[Brazos County Health Department](#)





Updated Standards for Emergency Eyewashes & Showers



The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) has received American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval for ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014, American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment.

ANSI/ISEA Z358.1-2014 was prepared by the Emergency Eyewash and Shower Group of the ISEA and reviewed by a consensus panel of key stakeholders representing architects, healthcare

facilities, chemical and safety professionals and government agencies.

This revision updates the 2009 version and includes further clarification to emphasize that fluid flow location and pattern delivery for emergency eyewashes and eye/face washes is the critical aspect in designing and installing these devices, rather than the positioning of nozzles. Additionally, illustrations have been updated to reflect

contemporary design configurations that are known to meet the criteria in the standard.

In addition to the revised standard, the ISEA's new Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment Selection, Installation and Use Guide provides assistance on the proper selection, use and maintenance of equipment. For more information, visit www.safetyequipment.org.

Copyright 2015 J. J. Keller & Associates, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have questions about an eyewash in your area?

Misplace your shower tag?

Need a shower or eyewash installed?

⇒ labsafety@tamu.edu

Mark Your Calendar...

June 1-November 30:
Atlantic Hurricane Season



July 7:
Last day to **register** for annual parking permit

August 31:
First day of fall classes

For more upcoming dates and events:

[University Calendar](#)
[EHS Calendar](#)

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



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



This issue of *Safety Dispatch* will be distributed electronically and published online only. EHS will consider printing future issues after reviewing expressed requests. If you or your department is interested in receiving future newsletters on paper, please email safetydispatch@tamu.edu and include your department, mail stop, and number of requested copies.

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY


SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

1111 Research Parkway, Suite 220
MS 4472
College Station, TX 77843-4472
Phone: 979.845.2132
Fax: 979.845.1348
safetydispatch@tamu.edu
http://ehsd.tamu.edu
Director: Christina Robertson

EHS Training Schedule

Click on a name or date below to
register for classroom training:

General Radiation Safety	6/25, 7/22, 8/26
Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness	6/18, 7/16, 8/20
Introduction to Laboratory Safety Training	 6/9, 7/9

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.



Safety Sound Off

Utilities & Energy Services Water Treatment Group

EHS would like to recognize Darryl Peterson, Melissa Loyd, and Jimmy Holliday of the water treatment group at Utilities & Energy Services. They work hard to schedule deliveries on weekends or off-peak hours to minimize impact to campus traffic, plant operations, and maintenance activities. They have safely transferred thousands of gallons of chemicals without incident, and this accomplishment can be attributed to their attention to detail and commitment to safe work practices. Thank you, Darryl, Melissa, and Jimmy for your part in keeping Texas A&M a safe place to work, visit, and live.



BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat related deaths are 100% preventable

WHO:



Children



Construction workers

More males
than females
are affected



Elderly

WHERE:



Houses with
little to no AC



Construction
worksites

(Click for more
info from the
CDC.)

WHAT:

Extreme heat or heat waves
occur when the temperature
reaches extremely high levels
or when the combination of
heat and humidity causes the
air to become oppressive.



Cars

HOW to AVOID:



Stay hydrated with water,
avoid sugary beverages



Stay cool in an
air conditioned area



Wear light-weight, light colored,
loose fitting clothes

DID YOU KNOW?

The Office of
Sustainability has
posters and
images you can print to remind
your coworkers to turn off lights,
computers, and other electronics
when they leave the office. You
can find them [here](#).

The EPA does not recommend any additional precautions for
insect repellent use by pregnant or nursing women, and most
products can safely be used on children. For more information,
visit the [CDC's Insect Repellent Use & Safety page](#).

The highest recorded wind speed at
ground level during a hurricane in Texas
was in 1970. Hurricane Celia hit Corpus
Christi with 161 mph winds.

Since 1953, Atlantic tropical storms have been named from
lists originated by the National Hurricane Center. They now
rotate six lists. 2015's names can be found [here](#).

Enter to win a great summer prize!



Can you count how many times the
mosquito appears in this newsletter?
For a chance to win a prize, email your
answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.