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EHS Training Schedule:

General Radiation Safety	9/22, 10/19, 11/17
Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness	9/15, 10/20, 11/17
Introduction to Laboratory Safety	9/15, 10/5, 11/10

Please call 845-2132 to inquire about additional courses, training videos, or any of the following topics: Fire Extinguishers, Hazard Communication, Hearing Protection, Respiratory Protection, Laser Safety, Forklift Safety, Accident Investigation, Utility Cart Training, Hazardous Materials Shipping.

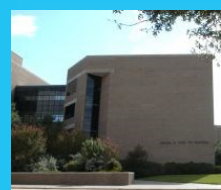
Texas A&M Recycling Drop-Off is now open on Adriance Lab Road. For a map to the drop-off location and more information about recycling in the Texas A&M community, visit <http://utilities.tamu.edu/recycling>.

DID YOU KNOW?

After serving the needs of the Brazos Valley since 1981, the Rock Prairie Road Landfill has reached final capacity and is no longer accepting municipal solid waste. The Twin Oaks Landfill is fully operational and replaces the Rock Prairie Road Landfill. For more information, visit <http://www.cstx.gov/index.aspx?page=3084&recordid=6340>.

Flu season is coming! Are you prepared? For information about this year's vaccine or about the flu in general, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season>. You can stay updated with local flu information at <http://brazoshealth.org>.

SAFETY SOUND OFF



Congratulations to Mitch Wittneben, building proctor for the Engineering/Physics Lab Building, for being recognized in this quarter's Safety Sound Off. After an inspection by Environmental Health & Safety (EHS), Mr. Wittneben quickly mitigated several safety hazards and eagerly called EHS for a re-inspection. It is obvious that Mr. Wittneben is serious about campus safety. Great job, Mitch, and thank you for making safety a priority!

Know someone who applies good health and safety practices at TAMU? Send their name, work department, and reason why we should feature them in our next Safety Sound Off to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Can you spot the hazards in this office scene? Email your answers to safetydispatch@tamu.edu for a chance to win another prize! Congratulations to Dell Hamilton for winning the summer picture contest. He received a canvas tote bag and blanket.

SAFETY DISPATCH

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- Safety Sound Off
- EHS Training Schedule
- Facts & Trivia
- Fall Prize Contests

LABORATORY REGISTRATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK is an annual event that promotes safety and provides emergency information from a variety of university departments and community emergency responders. This week provides the campus an opportunity to learn more about emergency preparedness in a fun, interactive setting. Campus Safety Awareness Week will be September 6–8 to coincide with National Preparedness Month, National Campus Fire Safety Month, and National Campus Safety Awareness Month. For a detailed schedule of events including locations and up-to-date information, follow Campus Safety Awareness Week on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/tamu.SafetyWeek>. Events include:

Emergency Responder Meet and Greet

When: September 6, 11 am–1 pm
 Target Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff

An opportunity to get to know emergency responders from the local community; includes fire departments, emergency medical services, and law enforcement. Resource tables will be set up to provide safety and emergency preparedness information.

12th Man Emergency Playbook Training

When: September 7, 10 am–11 am
 Target Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff

Covers various aspects of the 12th Man Emergency Playbook, such as what to do during acts of violence, medical emergencies, fire and hazardous materials emergencies, and weather emergencies.

Facilities Management Safety Training

When: September 7, 1:30 pm–3 pm
 Target Audience: Building Proctors, Facility Coordinators, Safety Team Representatives

Provides information to departmental or facility personnel who have safety responsibilities. Building contact information, building emergency planning, work order procedures, and other safety and emergency related information will be covered.

Shots Fired/Personal Safety Presentations

Target Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff

"Shots Fired" videos will be shown by University Police's Crime Prevention Unit from 4–5 pm on September 6. These videos provide instructions on how to respond when an active shooter is on campus. Also, from 1:30–2:30 pm on September 8, the Crime Prevention Unit will discuss various aspects of personal safety and awareness, with an emphasis on mental and physical preparation.

Green Dot Program

When: September 7, 5 pm–10 pm
 Target Audience: Students, Faculty, Staff

Green Dot-trained students, faculty, and staff stand ready to intervene and help prevent acts of violence. Through this program, participants will gain tangible leadership skills and will be supported in exploring sensitive topics while reducing the number of power-based personal violence incidents wherever Aggies are. Registration for the program can be found online at <http://greendot.tamu.edu>.

Dorm Room Burn

When: September 8, 6 pm–7:30 pm
 Target Audience: Students

ResLife, Environmental Health & Safety, and the College Station Fire Department will host the 3rd Annual Dorm Room Burn. Don't miss this opportunity to see how quickly a dorm room can go up in flames and learn how you can stay safe during a fire. Videos of the previous dorm burns can be found on YouTube by searching "Texas A&M University Dorm Burn." Resource tables will be set up to provide safety and emergency preparedness information.



a great winter prize...
 Find out how inside!

ENTER TO WIN A GREAT WINTER PRIZE! What is the number of Texas A&M's Standard Administrative Procedure that regulates restrictions on candles? Email your name and answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu, or drop it in campus mail to Safety Dispatch at MS 4472. We will draw for the winner in October.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sharon Richuber for being selected from our correct trivia participants for the great summer prize! The most recent hurricane name that was retired was Tomas in 2010. Thank you to everyone who submitted an answer, and be sure to participate in this season's contest.

ARE YOU DRINKING SOMEONE ELSE'S PRESCRIPTION?



In the past ten years, an alarming amount of pharmaceuticals have been found in recreational and drinking water in the United States. Are we disposing of our unwanted and unused prescriptions properly?

According to the United States Geological Survey, more than 80% of the waterways in the United States have shown traces of com-

mon medications, such as hormones, blood pressure medication, acetaminophen, codeine, and antibiotics. Pharmaceuticals have been found in the drinking water supply of at least 41 million Ameri-

cans. Wastewater treatment plants do not treat for drug residues, which are released into reservoirs, lakes, and eventually into ground water. Other contributors can be industrial discharges and manure from agriculture and private runoff. Long term consequences of humans consuming tainted water are unknown. However, fish in the immediate area of

discharges may show endocrine disruption which can feminize male fish and weaken their ability to reproduce.

Pharmaceutical contamination of drinking water and public recreation areas can be traced back to two sources: human waste and improperly discarded medicines. To ensure that your unused and unwanted medicines are not ending up in the local drinking water supply, Scott & White offers a "Take Away" program that will accept unused or expired medications at all 14 pharmacy sites. For a list of accepted items, please visit <http://www.sw.org/newsroom/pr-drug-take-away-20101005>.

SERVING FOOD ON CAMPUS



Planning to cook hot dogs for a fundraiser? Serving sandwiches at your next meeting? Food

safety rules are in place to ensure that food provided at temporary events on the Texas A&M campus is safe for consumption by the public.

A Food Distribution Form must be submitted to and approved by EHS prior to any public distribution of food. This includes food purchased from a restaurant or caterer, like pizza or sandwiches. If you are planning to prepare the food yourself (e.g. grilling hamburgers), you must also obtain a temporary food permit from the Brazos County Health Department before submitting your food distribution form to EHS.

If you are purchasing or distributing food that is not intended for the public, such as a meeting within your department or a birthday luncheon, you do not have to submit a form for approval.

For more information and to access the food distribution forms, please visit <http://ehsd.tamu.edu/FoodSafety.aspx>.

References:

SAP 28.99.99.M0.01: Service of Food by Non-University Vendors, at <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/28.99.99.M0.01.pdf>.

SAP 24.01.01.M4.02: Food Safety and Sanitation, at <http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/PDFs/24.01.01.M4.02.pdf>.

TO HAVE OR NOT TO HAVE... THAT IS THE QUESTION

Fire safety is not always on students' radar. While campus officials have the responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment for students, whether they are in class or in a dorm room, students also have a personal responsibility in making sure they do not become victims of a fire.

Fire prevention is one of the links in the chain-of-safety to assist with this responsibility. The goal of fire prevention is to limit potential fire sources and reduce the total fuel load that may exist. Texas A&M's Fire Prevention Program has identified known fire hazards

and developed a list of items that are prohibited in our residence halls. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- Camping stoves
- Candles (lit or unlit)
- Ceiling fans
- Electric skillets
- Electric power tools
- Gas-powered tools
- Griddles
- Grills (George Foreman® type, charcoal or propane)
- Halogen torchiere lamps
- Hot-oil popcorn poppers
- Hot-plates
- Oven broilers
- Sandwich makers

- Space heaters
- Toasters
- Toaster ovens

Texas A&M has a deep commitment to campus safety. Join us in our effort by learning your building's evacuation plan and practicing all evacuation drills as if they were the real thing. Report unsafe conditions to your RA or Hall Director, and call 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone) for campus emergencies. For more information about prohibited items, visit <http://reslife.tamu.edu/download/publications/handbook.pdf>.

Dates of Interest:

September 24—Family Health & Fitness Day
September 28—Green Consumer Day

October—Eye Injury Prevention Month
October 1—Household Hazardous Waste Collection at University Services Building
October 3-7—Drive Safely Work Week
October 22—Texas A&M Stream Clean

November 6—Daylight Saving Time ends
November 15—Texas Recycles Day

How can you tell if a noise is too loud? If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is within arm's length, or if your ears ring or your hearing is muffled after you leave an area, you have probably been exposed to unsafe noise levels. For information on occupational hearing protection, call 845-2132.

AggieLand's National Night Out Against Crime:
 National Night Out is a nation-wide program designed to promote awareness and anti-crime efforts in local communities. Texas A&M's National Night Out will be held October 4th at 6 pm at the University Apartments Community Center. For more information visit <http://www.facebook.com/pages/TAMU-National-Night-Out/129447860470550>.

Can you count how many times the symbol appears in this newsletter? Email your answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu for a chance to win a prize. Look closely!

WHAT'S LURKING IN YOUR LAB?

Labs are required to train employees for safe handling of chemicals and equipment, provide safety data sheets, and label chemicals with hazards. But when unused chemicals are pushed to the back of the shelf and forgotten, their hazards may be forgotten as well. Do you know what is in that container? What its hazards are? When given little attention for an extended period of time, these chemicals can accumulate and potentially pose a much greater hazard.

Some chemicals become more hazardous with time, so it is important to know each chemical's shelf life. Corrosive gases may begin to build

pressure and even corrode the cylinder valve, resulting in an unexpected release of a hazardous gas, or possibly a cylinder flying violently through the lab. Chloroform can begin emitting a gas far more toxic than the original chemical. Benzoyl Peroxide and Ethyl Ether can become unstable and potentially explode during handling. Finally, Picric Acid becomes a shock-sensitive explosive when allowed to dry.

Most chemicals may not exhibit such a dramatic hazard-

ous behavior, but their presence alone can increase risk. Cluttered shelves often lead to chemical spills, as simply reaching for a chemical may cause another to be knocked over. The Texas A&M Hazardous Materials Response Team has responded to numerous large spills that were caused by shelves collapsing under the weight of excess chemicals. The more chemicals there are in a lab, the greater the danger of a fire.

So what can you do? First, know what chemicals are

around you. Just because you do not work with them does not mean they can't pose a hazard. Keep an inventory of your chemicals so you know what is in stock, and use a first-in-first-out chemical management system to help reduce the amount of wasted chemicals and improve safety in your lab. Second, remove all chemicals that have passed their shelf life and those that are not likely to be needed in the foreseeable future. The potential increase in hazard is much greater than the cost of their replacement. Dispose of unneeded chemicals through the University's Hazardous Waste Program. For more information, call 845-2132.

