

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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WINTER 2012



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) remind everyone that home fires are more prevalent in winter than in any other season, due in part to an increase in cooking and heating fires. Holiday decorations and electrical service interruptions due to winter storms also increase risk of fire in winter.

The following tips can help maintain a safe home and office this season.

- Inspect holiday lights for damaged wires or sockets and excessive kinking or wear before hanging them.
- Do not link more than three light strands unless the directions indicate it is safe to do so. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Periodically check the wires to ensure that they are not warm to the touch.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- Decorations should be non-flammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- Trees and other holiday decorations should not block an exit. In the event of a fire, time is critical. A blocked entry/exit puts your family at risk.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles that can look, smell, and feel like real candles.
- If you use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders, 12 inches from anything that can burn, and cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave a room or go to bed with candles burning. Remember that candles are prohibited in all buildings on campus.
- Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame.
- Do not use the kitchen oven/range to heat your home. It is a fire hazard and can be a source of toxic fumes.
- Keep anything flammable at least three feet away from space heaters. Make sure your alternative heaters have 'tip switches' that automatically turn off when they tip over.
- Make sure wood stoves are properly installed and at least three feet away from anything flammable. Ensure they have proper floor support and adequate ventilation.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of your fireplace to prevent embers from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other flammable items. Never put wrapping paper in the fireplace. It may throw off dangerous sparks that could result in a chimney fire.
- Use a flashlight - not a candle - for emergency lighting.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially inside and outside sleeping areas. Test all smoke alarms monthly, and replace batteries at least once a year.

Source: The US Fire Administration
<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

INSIDE:



Safe driving tips for the holidays. **Page 2**



Required safety training. **Page 2**



Fall 2012 in review. **Page 3**



Safety Sound Off. **Page 4**



Win a great winter prize. **Page 4**

**Two Types of
Smoke Alarms...
See Page 4**

OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS



Review these driving tips to stay safe on the road.

As you make plans for holiday travel, review these driving tips to stay safe on the road.

- Be prepared. Keep your vehicle maintained and ready for colder temperatures. Check your tires, battery, fluid levels, ignition system, lights, heater, cooling system, and wipers prior to traveling. Keep safety equipment in your car for emergencies: blankets, first-aid kit, flares, flashlight, jumper cables, ice scraper, gloves, water, food, etc. You can check Texas road conditions by visiting <http://www.drivetexas.org>.
- Wear your seat belt. All passengers must be secured by a seat belt or approved child safety seat.
- Remember you will be sharing the road with other vehicles. Be patient and allow extra time for delays. Obey all traffic laws and watch for signs for construction, road delays, or detour routes. On some multi-lane highways, you must move out of the left

lane after you have safely passed another vehicle or you may receive a citation for impeding traffic.

- Watch for speed limit signs, and always drive for the conditions. When visibility or road conditions change due to low light, rain, fog, snow, or road construction, adjust your speed accordingly and increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Use your vehicle's low beam headlights and your wipers and defroster to keep windows clear.

- Ice forms first on bridges, overpasses, and shady areas. If you hit a patch of ice or your car begins to skid, take your foot off the gas pedal and do not hit the brake. Steer gently in the direction you want the front of the car to go. As the car straightens, you should regain traction and control. If conditions become too dangerous to continue, pull completely off the roadway and turn on emergency flashers.

- Keep your eyes on the road. Avoid distractions, and do not text and drive. Prevent drowsy driving on long trips by giving yourself a break every two hours. Find an area to safely pull over and stretch. Avoid driving between midnight and 6 AM, and get plenty of rest before your trip. Take advantage of the safe rest areas and travel information centers available.

- If you see emergency lights approaching, pull over and stop until they have passed. As you approach a stopped vehicle with flashing lights, you must move one lane away or slow down to 20 mph below the speed limit.

- Do not drink and drive. Even small amounts of alcohol can impair your reaction time.

- In an emergency, call the Texas Department of Public Safety Stranded/Disabled Motorist Hotline at 1-800-525-5555.

Source: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/tle/traveltips.htm>

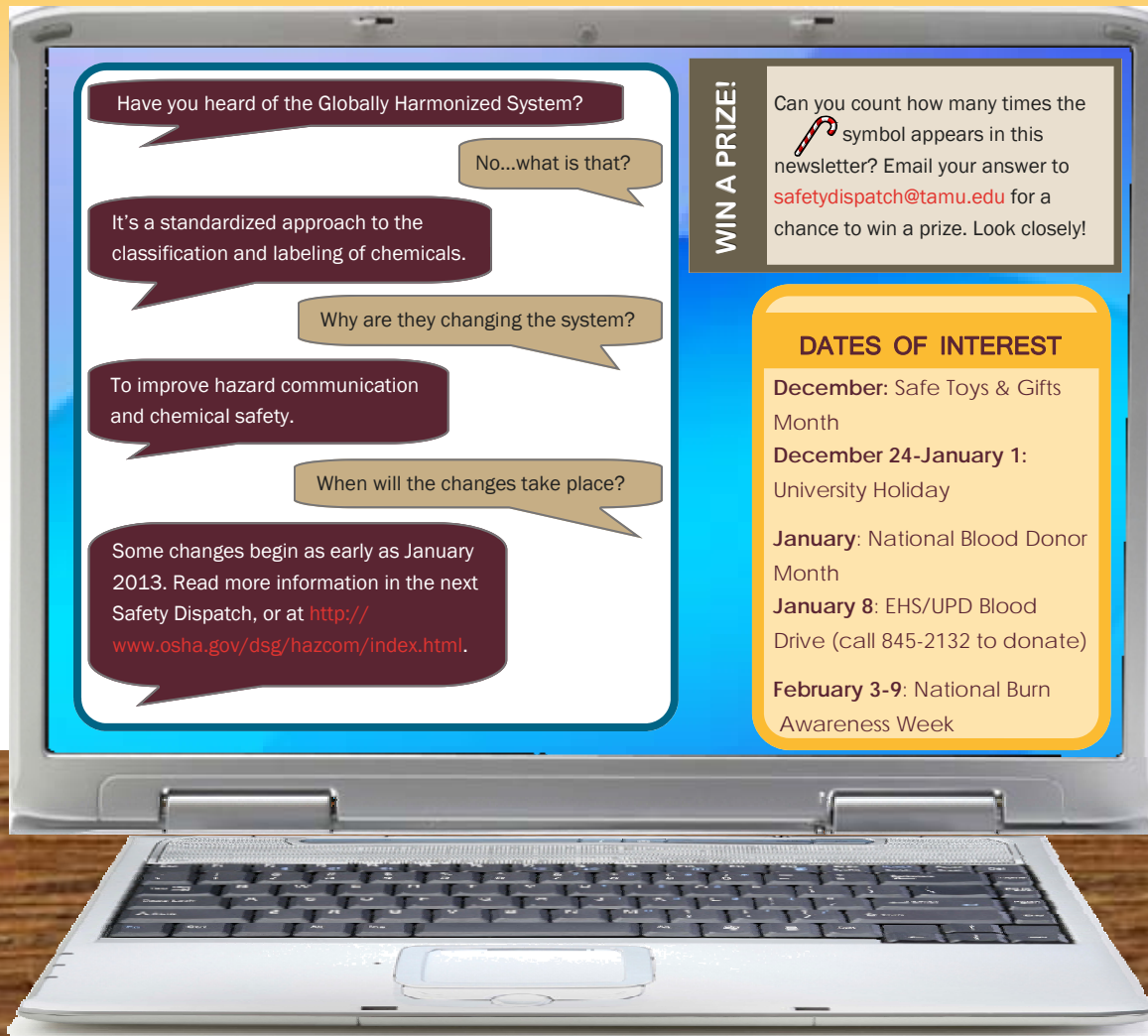
EHS REQUIRED TRAINING

Course Topic →	Hazard Communication	Intro to Lab Safety	Lab-Specific Training	HazMat Shipping	Radiation Safety	Respiratory Protection	Utility Vehicle Training
Who Needs It	Anyone working with chemicals	New lab employees	Anyone working in a lab	Anyone who packages, ships, or receives hazardous material	Anyone working in a radiation lab	Anyone wearing a respirator (N-95, half-face, full-face, PAPR, or SCBA)	Anyone operating a golf cart, Gator™, tractor, or other utility vehicle on campus
Where to Take It	In-Class or Online	In-Class	In your lab, provided by your PI	In-Class or Online (dry ice only)	In-Class	In-Person or Online (PAPR only)	In-Class (groups) or Online
More Information	http://ehsd.tamu.edu/Training.aspx	http://ehsd.tamu.edu/Training.aspx	Ask your PI, or contact EHS at 845-2132	http://ehsd.tamu.edu/Training.aspx	http://ehsd.tamu.edu/Training.aspx	Email ehsd.occ.health@tamu.edu	http://ehsd.tamu.edu/Training.aspx

LOOK!

As Texas A&M students, faculty, and staff, we are accustomed to receiving notifications of mandatory trainings through the TrainTraQ system. These include topics regarding ethics, information security awareness, and discrimination. There may

also be a safety-related training course you are required to take, depending on your activities or employment on campus. Check the chart above for more information, and contact EHS at 845-2132 if you have any questions.



SCAN US!



A LOOK BACK AT FALL 2012

Fall is a busy time of year for Environmental Health & Safety. Take a look at some successful events we had on campus this semester.

DORM BURN

A mock dorm room lit up Simpson Drill Field in a demonstration as part of Campus Safety Awareness Week. Firefighters put out the fire after 200 students watched how fast their room can erupt with smoke and flames.

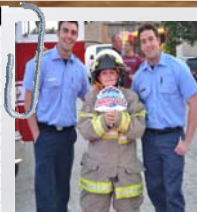
Photo courtesy of The Battalion

9 / 13 / 2012

Aggiedard's National Night Out (NNO) Against Crime:

NNO 2012 was a success for 400

student residents and staff who attended the event at University Apartments. TEEX Fire School, EMS, UPD, EHS, and Residence Life were just a few of the participating organizations. Over 100 prizes were given away to participants. Special thanks to the NNO Committee, donors, volunteers, and resource table groups who made this event a success.



10 / 2 / 2012

CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

In September, students, faculty, and staff participated in activities promoting emergency preparedness. 91 people stopped by to learn Sidewalk CPR! Other activities included Active Shooter Training, Business Continuity Planning, Facility Manager Safety Training, and the 4th Annual Dorm Burn.

STREAM CLEAN

This year's EHS Stream Clean event on October 6th resulted in 102 volunteers picking up 78 bags of garbage, plus a ladder, city garbage can, and half a bicycle! Thank you all for your participation!

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EHS Director: John Salsman

EHS Training Schedule:

General Radiation Safety	12/12, 1/23, 2/20
Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness	1/17, 2/21
Introduction to Laboratory Safety	1/3, 1/9, 2/5, 2/7

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, Asbestos Awareness.

SAFETY SOUND OFF



Congratulations to One Love for being chosen for this season's Safety Sound Off! One Love is a student organization at Texas A&M that provides numerous volunteers every year for EHS's Stream Clean. This fall 43

students from One Love participated in the trash collection event. Thank you, One Love, for helping to keep our campus clean and green!

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 name the hazards in this winter scene? Email your answers to safetydispatch@tamu.edu for a chance to win a prize! Congratulations to Karen Sears for winning the fall Sudoku contest with the lucky number 7. She received a harbor blanket and a MagLite® flashlight.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bryan and College Station have a curbside recycling program for Christmas trees. During the week after Christmas, you may leave your tree on the curb separate from your other garbage and they will pick it up for free. If you do not live in the city limits, you may take your tree to BVSWM at no charge.

There are two types of smoke alarms—one detects slow smoldering fires and the other detects fast-burning flames. Having the proper kind could save the lives of your loved ones. For maximum protection, use both detectors or purchase a dual-detector that uses both technologies. To learn more, watch the video at <http://tinyurl.com/c6ypah6>.

According to Guinness World Records, the largest fireworks display (66,326 fireworks) was achieved by Macedo's Pirotecnia LDA in Portugal in 2006.

ENTER TO WIN A GREAT WINTER PRIZE! Happy New Year! According to Chinese legend, what seasoning was spilled into a fire and thus led to the invention of fireworks? 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 January.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jim Balthrop for being selected from our trivia entries for the great fall prize! The SEC school that lost its Academic Hall to fire in 1892 was the University of Missouri. Thank you to everyone who submitted an answer. Be sure to participate in this season's contest.