

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

# SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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## SawStop ON CAMPUS

### What is SawStop?

SawStop is a brand of table saws with a unique safety feature that gives it the ability to detect contact with skin and stop the spinning blade in less than 5 milliseconds. That means when someone accidentally contacts the blade (or their finger or hand gets too close while pushing an object across the table), the saw has an electronic detection system that stops the blade almost instantly. This safety action often results in only a small scratch, instead of the devastating injury that would likely occur with an ordinary table saw.

### How and where are SawStops used on campus?

Since the purchase of the first SawStop on campus in 2007, we have documented 5 saves. Without this technology, the average cost per incident could range from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. In late 2013, Environmental Health & Safety undertook a university-wide safety initiative, as the Senior Safety Oversight Committee recommended that all shops on cam-

pus surplus their regular table saws and replace them with SawStops. As part of this effort, EHS and the Office of the Provost jointly committed to paying 75% of the cost of each SawStop with the expectation that the department receiving the saw would pay the remainder. Approximately 60 new SawStops are currently being used in shops and teaching labs on campus, and the replaced equipment is no longer in use. Texas A&M University is considered a SawStop Campus.

### Where can I find more information?

Visit SawStop's [website](#) for information about specific models and where to buy their products.

If your department has a table saw that needs to be replaced, contact EHS's [Occupational Safety](#) group.

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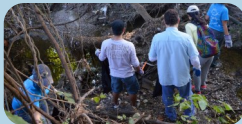
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**Click here to watch a demonstration  
of the SawStop in action...**

# EHS WEBSITE CHANGES



## TAKE A LOOK!



<http://ehsd.tamu.edu>

If you have accessed the EHS website recently, you may have noticed a new look. We have updated the site to include more health and safety information in an easier to navigate format. As the website continues to be developed, please note the following changes and updated features. Click on any highlighted word to navigate to that section of the new site:

### • How Do I...

We have listed some commonly asked questions in one area on the homepage. From here, you will find answers to the questions and be taken to subject pages. Each group within EHS also has a list of "How Do I" questions specific to their discipline or subject matter.

### • Forms

Forms provided by or submitted to EHS can now be found in one place on the "Forms" page or on individual group pages per subject.

### • Helpful Documents

EHS understands that you sometimes refer to documents from our website that are not very easy to

find at a later date. We have created a "Helpful Documents" library, where you will find reference materials from all EHS subjects.

### • Training

All trainings provided by EHS are listed in one place now. Courses are taught in person, online, or by request only, but you can find links for all training topics here.

### • Subject/Group Pages

[Agricultural Safety](#)  
[AEDs](#)  
[Asbestos](#)  
[Chemical Waste](#)  
[Emergency Management](#)  
[Engineering Safety](#)  
[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](#)

## HOLIDAY CRIME PREVENTION *from UPD*

The holidays are a busy time of year, but it is important to always keep safety in mind. Here are some helpful hints to consider at home and before leaving your Texas A&M workplace for the winter break.

### For The Workplace:

- All inner office doors and building exterior doors should be closed and locked. Do not prop open an exterior door if working after hours during the break.
- Personnel working during the holidays should be aware of their personal safety. Let someone know where you are and when you are expected to return.
- All computers, portable equipment, and tools should be secured or locked away.
- Close and secure all windows. An unlocked window makes easy access to the rest of the building.
- All valuable personal items should be taken home or securely locked away.

- Report any suspicious activity or unauthorized personnel immediately to the University Police Department. If you cannot reach a telephone, use one of the [emergency phones](#) located throughout campus.

### At Home:

- Keep the outside of your home well lit with doors locked and window curtains closed.
- Don't display gifts beneath the Christmas tree that can be seen from windows or doors.
- After the holidays, don't advertise gifts received by the boxes left for the garbage collection. Destroy boxes and place in a sealed, non-clear garbage bag, or bring to a [campus recycling center](#).

For more tips on preventing crime while shopping or in parking lots, see Texas A&M University Police's article [here](#).



### Campus Safety Awareness Week (CSAW)

Held September 16th through 18th, this annual event provided 14 different programs, trainings, and activities to help promote safety and emergency preparedness throughout the campus community. Several hundred students, faculty, and staff participated in the week's programs. A highlight of this year's CSAW was the 6th Annual Dorm Room Burn, attended by the Corps of Cadets and sponsored by

## A Look Back: Fall 2014

Residence Life, Environmental Health & Safety, College Station Fire Department, The Association of Former Students, and Blue Bell Creameries.

### National Night Out

National Night Out was held Tuesday, October 7th, at Hullabaloo Hall to commemorate Aggieland's annual night out against crime. A collaborative effort by Residence Life, UPD, EHS, and numerous other cam-



pus volunteers, this event brought staff and students together for food, fun, and fellowship with our local first responders.

### Stream Clean

123 students, staff, and guests volunteered to clean trash and debris from Burton Creek and White Creek on campus during EHS's annual Stream Clean event on Saturday, October 18th. By the end of the morning, over 80 bags of trash had been collected, including several large items (like a bumper!). Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Stream Clean a success.



## Mark Your Calendar...

**December 21:** Kyle Field West Side Implosion  
([More Information](#))

**December 24-January 2:** Winter Break (Faculty & Staff Holiday)

**January 19:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Faculty & Staff Holiday)

**January 20:** First Day of Spring Classes

For more upcoming dates and events:

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

## Want to keep up with EHS?



The environmental group at EHS manages a facebook page. Click on the link above, "Like" it, and you will see news, announcements, and environmental tips in your feed. Have an event or topic you want to highlight? Let us know there or email us at [theenvironment@tamu.edu](mailto:theenvironment@tamu.edu).

EHS has a new website! Click on the link below to find the same address, but different look... for more information on the recent changes, see the article on page 2.



Each issue of *Safety Dispatch* will be posted on the EHS homepage, under the "Hot Topics" section. Click on the *Safety Dispatch* header above for access to all prior issues.

Click on the link below to visit the EHS twitter page, where we make important safety announcements, tweet photos and videos of current events, and share other campus news and safety-related information. Be sure to follow us!



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](mailto: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  
 Email: [safetydispatch@tamu.edu](mailto:safetydispatch@tamu.edu)  
 Website: <http://ehsd.tamu.edu>

Newsletter Committee: Michael Bowe,  
 Dee Donovan, Monica Hartman,  
 Austin Horne, Swati Kale, Monica  
 Martinez, Kristen Robinson, Marianna  
 Wood.

EHS Director: Christina Robertson

## EHS Training Schedule:

Vet Hospital Radiation Safety	1/27, 2/26
Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness	1/15, 2/19
Introduction to Laboratory Safety	1/22, 2/10

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, Asbestos Awareness.

## SAFETY SOUND OFF

We need your help!



EHS would like to highlight someone YOU KNOW who applies good health and safety practices at work on campus, or someone who has made a commendable effort to promote health and safety to others at Texas A&M. Could that be your supervisor? An employee? Someone you've worked with recently? **Tell us** their name, work department, and reason why we should feature them in our next Safety Sound Off, and you may see their picture here!

## Holiday Fire Safety Tips...

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

! **Two of every five** home decoration fires are started by candles.

! **Nearly half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

On average, one of every 40 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.

The American Automobile Association (AAA) publishes an illustrated winter driving guide called "How to Go on Ice and Snow." Click [here](#) to read its important road safety tips.

Effective January 1, 2015, passenger aircraft will no longer permit UN3090 lithium metal batteries (including lithium alloy) to be shipped or transported. More information can be found at the US Department of Transportation (DOT) PHMSA website [here](#).

Kyle Field's makeover is considered the largest college stadium renovation in history. When complete in 2015, its seating capacity will be 102,500.

**Enter to win a great winter prize!**



Can you count how many times the cursor symbol appears in this newsletter? For a chance to win a prize, email your answer to [safetydispatch@tamu.edu](mailto:safetydispatch@tamu.edu).