



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

SAFETY DISPATCH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

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Active Shooter: What Would You Do?

You have seen the images and heard the stories in the news, but would you know what to do if you encountered an active shooter?

Although University Police officers are specially trained and equipped to rapidly intervene in active shooter events, these situations often end before law enforcement arrive on scene. Individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to respond and protect themselves. If you find

yourself in an active shooter situation, try to remain as calm as possible and use the suggested actions below to help plan a strategy for your survival.

For more information about what to do in an active shooter situation and how to recognize and prevent workplace violence, visit [Texas A&M's](#) or the [US Department of Homeland Security's](#) active shooter preparedness webpages.

Active Shooter Awareness and Training Resources

- Free, interactive online training provided by the US Department of Homeland Security: "[Active Shooter: What You Can Do](#)"
- Active Shooter Preparedness program, provided by Texas A&M University Police: Click [here](#) to schedule.
- Video: "RUN. HIDE. FIGHT. Surviving an Active Shooter Event" (available in [English](#) and [other languages](#))
- Video: "[Shots Fired on Campus: Student Edition](#)" (NetID login required)
- Video: "[Shots Fired: When Lightning Strikes](#) (workplace violence)" (NetID login required)
- Printables: [Active Shooter Pocket Card](#), [Pamphlet](#), [Booklet](#), and [Poster](#) (English). [Pocket Card](#) and [Poster](#) (Spanish).

HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

QUICKLY DETERMINE THE MOST REASONABLE WAY TO PROTECT YOUR OWN LIFE. Customers and clients are likely to follow the lead of employees and managers during an active shooter situation.

1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Keep your hands visible.
- Help others escape, if possible. Evacuate whether others agree to follow.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be.

2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the active shooter's view.
- Block entry to your hiding place. Lock the doors.
- Silence your cell phone (including vibrate mode) and remain quiet.
- Hide behind large objects like desks or filing cabinets for protection if shots are fired your direction.

3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger.
- Attempt to incapacitate the active shooter.
- Act with as much physical aggression as possible.
- Improvise weapons or throw items at the active shooter.
- Commit to your actions.

CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.

Adapted from DHS website



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BUILD

In its third year as a student-led service organization inspired by the spirit of Bonfire, BUILD continued its mission of connecting students from all corners of Texas A&M University through a physically uniting effort to benefit others in need.

After building a home with Habitat for Humanity in 2013 and four mobile medical clinics in 2014, BUILD 2015 completed four more Texas Aggie Medical Clinics, which will be sent to developing countries with extremely limited access to general healthcare and medical facilities. In seven short weeks, empty 40-foot shipping containers were transformed into fully functioning mobile medical clinics. Everything from wall framing and plumbing to painting and electrical work was done by student volunteers, with assistance from advisors and donors. BUILD worked closely with EHS to ensure the project complied with environmental and safety regulations and that participants were provided appropriate training and personal protective equipment while working on the job site.

After consulting with doctors and nurses that operated last year's clinics, several design changes were made to enhance the effectiveness of the facilities. Each mobile clinic provides capabilities for a wide range of medical care, from simple blood work to labor and delivery and minor surgeries.

The clinics from this year's project will be sent to communities in Greece, Haiti, Honduras, and Kenya. Before they are shipped, each container will be filled with \$100,000 worth of medical equipment, thanks to partners Medical Bridges and My Little Patient. The clinics will continue to be restocked and maintained through a combined effort with Medical Bridges and an in-country, non-governmental organization.

As a testament to their need, the two clinics placed in Guatemala last year now serve between 100 and 200 people each day. With this level of success and only eight of twelve clinics completed, BUILD has the capacity to continue to positively affect hundreds of thousands of people.

For more information about BUILD, visit their [website](#), or follow them on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#). If you would like to donate money or material toward their efforts, click [here](#).



Progress at
BUILD 2015



Haiti Clinic
(BUILD 2014)



Housing Inspections

Each year, EHS and the Department of Residence Life work together to inspect every room in Texas A&M housing, including dormitories/residence halls, Corps housing, The Gardens, and the new White Creek Apartments.

EHS employees were accompanied by Resident Advisors and Corps Housing Officers while inspecting the living spaces, looking for any fire or life safety violations.

Top violations included use of extension cords, microwaves and refrigerators not plugged directly into wall outlets, poor housekeeping, and use of multi-plug adapters without an internal breaker.

Currently, White Creek Apartments and The Gardens are inspected in the fall and spring of each year. Starting in 2016, additional inspections will be completed in dormitories with incoming/changing residents.

For a list of rules and prohibited items in dorms and university apartments, see the [Residence Hall Handbook](#), [University Apartments Resident Handbook](#), or [Cadet Resident Handbook](#).

FALL 2015 INSPECTIONS BY THE NUMBERS...

5,291: rooms inspected in dorms/
residence halls (1-2 bedrooms each)

420: apartments inspected @ The
Gardens (1-2 bedrooms each)

408: apartments inspected @ White
Creek (1-4 bedrooms each)

45: approximate number of days to
complete inspections

8: EHS inspectors

SMOKE ALARMS IN THE HOME

Smoke alarms save lives and should be an integral part of your home's safety plans. Cooking, heating, and holiday decorations all contribute to an increased risk of fire during the winter months, so now is the time to be sure your alarms are properly placed and functioning.

- Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep. Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Alarms should be tested monthly and replaced when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested. Vacuum every six months to remove dust and cobwebs from the alarm housing. Replace batteries once a year or when the alarm chirps to indicate a low battery.
- Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help waking. Special alarms with strobe lights and bed shakers are available for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- When you hear an alarm sound, get outside, and stay outside. You should designate a meeting area outside your home where all occupants will gather and stay until the fire department says it is safe to go back inside.

Visit the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) website for more information about [winter fire safety](#) and [smoke alarms](#) in your home.

Remember...



Test alarms monthly.



Replace batteries annually (or with a time change).



Vacuum every six months to remove dust and cobwebs.



Replace with new alarm every ten years.



ATTENTION: Due to inclement weather on October 24th, EHS had to cancel Stream Clean 2015. Don't be discouraged, though! You will still have an opportunity to participate, as it will be rescheduled in the spring. Registrations will be accepted for those that did not get an opportunity to sign up in the fall. Check our [Facebook page](#) for details.



Mark Your Calendar...

December 6th-12th

National Handwashing Awareness Week

Proper handwashing can prevent the spread of germs, especially during the cold and flu season. For more information, visit the CDC's [website](#). Click [here](#) for posters you can print to put in your area restrooms.

National Influenza Vaccination Week

If you haven't gotten your flu vaccine yet, it's not too late. Visit the CDC's [flu page](#) for more information.

December 24th-January 1st:
Winter Break ❄️

January 18th:
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

National Heart Month

Visit the American Heart Association's [website](#) for more information about heart health, recent news, and how to become CPR certified.

Student Opportunities in Environmental Health and Safety:

AEHAP/NSF Paid Summer Internship

The selected scholar will spend 8-10 weeks working on a research project identified by NSF international.
Deadline to submit: January 15

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Program

Scholarships are available to applicants pursuing an undergraduate degree in Environmental Health or postgraduate degree in Environmental Health Sciences.
Deadline to submit: February 1

CDC Summer Program in Environmental Health
The 10-week internship at the CDC's Chamblee campus in Atlanta is for students with environmental health majors.
Deadline to submit: February 3

For more upcoming dates and events:
[EHS Calendar](#)
[University Calendar](#)

Get to Know Us



Joel Andrews is an Environmental Health and Safety Specialist II. He has worked for EHS since June 2015 and has already accomplished state licensure as a Mold Assessment Consultant and Asbestos Management Planner. In addition to performing asbestos inspections and conducting indoor air quality investigations, Joel is the department's go-to guy for safety equipment; he is responsible for routine maintenance of air monitoring equipment and the automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on campus. Joel graduated from Texas A&M University in 2015 with degrees in Bioenvironmental Sciences and Horticulture. Previously, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps for five years as a quality assurance inspector for flight equipment. In his free time, Joel enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter. He also is an avid runner and outdoorsman.



Marianna Wood is an Environmental Health and Safety Specialist III. She is celebrating a 10-year work anniversary with EHS this year! Marianna's primary role in the department is as a hazardous materials transportation expert; she works with researchers and staff across the university (and often throughout the A&M System) to ensure their hazardous materials are shipped in strict accordance with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) rules and regulations. Marianna is also a CPR/AED skills assessor with EHS. Marianna is a graduate of Arizona State University and came to us with 10 years of experience in the airline industry with a role in shipping dangerous goods. In her spare time, Marianna enjoys hiking, camping, photography, travel, and volunteering for emergency services.

OUR VISION: We pledge to ensure that Texas A&M University provides the highest standard in health, safety, and environmental protection.

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

Click on any link to stay connected



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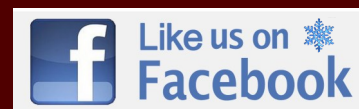
EHS webpage



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*Safety Dispatch***



**EHS
The Environment**

Safety Sound Off

On November 14, 2015 at 5:27 AM, College Station Police officers were dispatched to the scene of a major accident in the 800 Block of George Bush Drive. Officer Patricia Marty was the first emergency personnel on scene. When Officer Marty arrived, she saw Texas A&M Transportation Services employees Joel Luce and Greg Stuenkel attempting to extract the driver, later identified as Jose Izquierdo, from the wrecked vehicle. The vehicle caught fire within seconds, and using the fire extinguisher from her patrol car, Officer Marty was able to diminish the flames long enough to attempt to extract Izquierdo with the help of Luce and Stuenkel. Because the door was wedged shut due to damage from striking a tree, Stuenkel retrieved a sledge hammer from his vehicle to break the back window. The vehicle ignited again and flames were visible from the hood and underneath the car. This is when Joe Bessner, a senior at the University of North Texas that had stopped at the accident, began to help with efforts to extract the driver. Officer Marty, Luce, Stuenkel, and Bessner worked together to remove the driver through the window and drug him to safety. From the time that Officer Marty arrived at 5:30 AM to the time Izquierdo was extracted took just four minutes.

College Station Fire Department responded to the scene, extinguished the fire, and transported Izquierdo for medical care. It was said on scene that if it had not been for Officer Marty's quick thinking in using her fire extinguisher to diminish the flames, the results could have been deadly. Officer Marty gave most of the credit to Joel Luce and Greg Stuenkel, who were taking action even before her arrival. She also said the two men, along with Joe Bessner, provided much needed muscle and courage to a dangerous situation. It was through the collective effort of these four individuals that a life was saved. For dash cam video of the response and rescue, click the photo above. *(adapted from CSPD press release)*



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

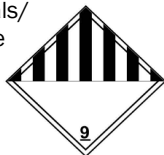
Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods Annual Revisions—Effective January 1, 2016

The following International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods 57th Edition changes may affect your shipping:

- Documentation: 8.1.6.9.2 – Clarification has been added that it is acceptable to show on the Shipper's Declaration the number of packages by use of numbers or words.
- Handling: 9.4.4 – A new paragraph has been added with recommendations on actions to be taken where packages are found to be damaged or leaking. These recommendations are not for dangerous goods (reference 9.3.6) but for other cargo where GHS markings are evident on packages and where there may be a risk to persons or the environment.
- Radioactive Materials: 10.7.1.3 – The text on the requirement for packages to bear the permissible gross weight has been clarified.

If you are shipping Lithium Batteries, be aware that changes in how the batteries will be shipped is being addressed internationally. Effective 2016, recommendations are being made in the packaging of UN3480 and UN3090. Performance-based standards have yet to be developed, but restrictions on the number of packages for the excepted lithium batteries will be implemented in advance of the January 1, 2017 effective date.

As a reminder, effective June 2015, if you offer a package for shipping, you are responsible for the proper packaging, marking, and labeling. Those that have unpaid penalties and pending litigation will be unable to ship hazardous materials/dangerous goods according to DOT. If you do have warning letters from DOT or FAA, [contact EHS](#) Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods Shipping and Training immediately.



Holiday Food Safety Q&A

Q. How long can food stay out after cooking?

A. Leftovers, takeout foods, and some desserts (including pumpkin pie) should be refrigerated or discarded within 2 hours. [\(more\)](#)

Q. I'm bringing food to a holiday get together. How should I transport it?

A. Hot food must be kept hot, and cold food must stay cold. If it will not be eaten within 2 hours, it is better to bring food that does not require temperature control. [\(more\)](#)

Q. To what temperature does my turkey have to be cooked? If I'm frying, does it really matter?

A. Any poultry or stuffing cooked inside poultry should be cooked to an internal temperature of 165° F, regardless of the cooking method. [\(more\)](#)

Q. If my turkey is frozen solid, can I leave it in the sink to thaw?

A. Frozen food must be thawed in the refrigerator, under cold running water, or in the microwave—never at room temperature. [\(more\)](#)

Q. As long as I cook my leftovers until they are steaming hot, does it matter how long they stayed out?

A. Reheating may not destroy all pathogens that could have accumulated while it was out of temperature. Food left out longer than 2 hours should be discarded. [\(more\)](#)

Q. What if I have a food safety question I really need answered?

A. Call the toll free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854.

Still need answers about food handling or storage? Click here to "Ask Karen" with the USDA.

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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 under the Office of Safety and Security and the Vice President for Finance and Administration. Click [here](#) to provide feedback.

EHS Training Schedule

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

General Radiation Safety	1/21, 2/17
Vet School Radiation Safety	Jan/Feb dates TBD
Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness	12/17, 1/21, 2/18
Recurrent DOT/IATA/Infectious Substance	2/22-2/25
Introduction to Laboratory Safety	1/7, 1/26, 2/17, 2/29

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

Of the 160 active shooter incidents identified between 2000 and 2013 in the United States, 60% ended before police arrived. Click [here](#) to learn how to prepare for an active shooter event.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that every year about 76 million people in the United States become ill from harmful bacteria in food; of these, about 5,000 die. Click [here](#) for recent recall alerts from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

YOU

According to the NFPA, three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Click [here](#) for important reminders.

There are four routes of administration available for the flu vaccine. Intramuscular, intradermal, jet injector, and nasal spray vaccines are all available this year. Click [here](#) for more information.

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 winter prize...

Can you count how many times the  snowflake appears in this newsletter? For a chance to win a prize, email your answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu. Congratulations to Jeanne Prestwood, who won the fall prize (digital photo frame). There were seven leaves hidden in the last issue.