

Department of
Environmental Health & Safety

Newsletter

<http://www.wright.edu/admin/ehs/>

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From The Director's Chair:

Since our last newsletter things have been really hectic in EHS. We are a couple full time staff positions short and everyone is helping out with all the various programs we manage. Our current staff shortage has reminded me just how much the university relies on every individual on campus in terms of providing a culture whereby the safety and well being of each person, and the university's impact on the environment, is valued as highly as any other issue on campus.

As we engage with individuals throughout campus we sometimes get the notion that folks believe we, EHS, are solely responsible for the environmental and occupational safety

and health of the campus community. Though it is true that our role is to work with the campus community to develop, communicate and implement programs that provide a safe and healthy environment for all students, employees and visitors, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure these programs are followed, and that safe and environmentally friendly practices are performed. We ask that you accept your role in this regard and help us help you.

When you notice an unsafe or environmentally unsound situation, such as someone working on the top step of a ladder, an unmarked wet spot in a tunnel, or someone not wearing their safety glasses in a lab or throwing a chemical in the trash, don't be afraid to act.

To help get this message out to the university community I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you a poem that is often passed around in the EHS community. Hopefully it will impart in you the desire to notice and prevent unsafe conditions or acts. It is titled ***I Chose to Look the Other Way*** and was written by Don Merrell. It is a poem that can help all of us realize that an action we take today may be the difference in someone else being around tomorrow.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

-Steve

I Chose to Look The Other Way

I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.
 It wasn't that I didn't care,
 I had the time, and I was there.
 But I didn't want to seem a fool,
 Or argue over a safety rule.
 I knew he'd done the job before,
 If I spoke up, he might get sore.

The chances didn't seem that bad,
 I'd done the same, He knew I had.
 So I shook my head and walked on by,
 He knew the risks as well as I.

He took the chance, I closed an eye,
 And with that act, I let him die.
 I could have saved a life that day,
 But I chose to look the other way.

Now every time I see his wife,
 I'll know, I should have saved his life.
 That guilt is something I must bear,
 But it isn't something you need share.

If you see a risk that others take,
 That puts their health or life at stake.
 The question asked, or thing you say,
 Could help them live another day.

If you see a risk and walk away,
 Then hope you never have to say,
 I could have saved a life that day,
 But **I chose**, to look the other way.

Space Heaters On Campus

With autumn upon us and winter just around the corner, we want to take this opportunity to provide information on the safe use of space heaters on campus.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than **25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of room (space) heaters**. More than 300 persons die in these fires. An estimated 6,000 persons receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations.

Wright State University recognizes that individuals have different comfort levels associated with room temperature.



While many universities across the country do not allow space heaters to be used on campus, we here in the department of Environmental Health & Safety and Physical Plant, have worked together to establish these guidelines to follow to allow their use at WSU:

All Space Heaters Must:

- Be inspected / approved by Physical Plant or Environmental Health & Safety prior to use, and be reinspected annually; (Inspection stickers will be placed on the space heater);
- Be UL or FM approved;
- Be electric - units that require no more than 110 volts are permitted;
- Be in sound condition and working order. Units that have been modified or have frayed cords are forbidden. Units that malfunction must be removed;
- Have a functioning "tip-over" shut off switch;
- Have a thermostat to regulate the heat output;
- Not be used at settings that use more than 1000 watts;
- Must contain *ceramic* heating elements;
- Be placed only on a flat and level surface;
- Be kept at least three (3) feet away from combustible and flammable materials, on all sides of the unit;
- Be plugged directly into a wall outlet (**NO EXTENSION CORDS PERMITTED**);
- Be turned off and unplugged at the end of the work day or when left unattended;
- Not be used to heat an area that is not designed to be heated.

EH&S and Physical Plant reserve the right to inspect and remove from service any space heater that does not meet the listed requirements or creates a hazard.

In The Past Quarter, EH&S.....

- Staff member, Helen Kay Dean, Health & Safety Technical Services Coordinator, earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership.
- Provided general, chemical, biological, and radiation lab safety training to incoming advanced degree students in Pharmacology and Toxicology, Biomedical Sciences, Biological Sciences and Environmental Sciences programs.
- Provided Bloodborne Pathogen training to 30 per-
- Staff member, C. Tom Dyer, Environmental Specialist, left WSU to pursue other career options. Good luck Tom!
- Arranged for the off campus shipment and proper disposal of 6400 pounds of chemical waste generated from labs and support service activities and 240 pounds of low level radioactive waste generated from research labs.
- Provided safety bulletins to

Physical Plant on the following issues to be used for monthly safety training: heat stress, confined spaces, & power/hand tool and grinder safety.

- Gave annual Nutter Center ice room training to Physical Plant, Wright State Police and EH&S personnel.
- Surveyed new fume hoods (37) in Brehm Lab for operational performance.

Bloodborne Pathogens Training

Personnel working in certain job positions at WSU have been identified by EHS as “at risk of an occupational exposure” to blood or other potentially infectious materials [OPIM] as defined in the OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.1030. This standard, better known as the

Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, requires all people who could expect to encounter blood or OPIM while performing job responsibilities to attend this training. The training must be given initially and again as an annual refresher course. If you have not

received annual training, please see the insert for information of where and when Bloodborne Pathogen training will be offered. Requests can be made to Kim Morris for group trainings at other dates and times [i.e. departmental meetings] at ext. 2623.

University College Coordinates Light Bulb Exchange

“If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.” www.energystar.gov

Last month WSU students put a big dent in energy usage in campus residences by participating in the Campus Light Bulb Exchange. Students exchanged nearly 3,000 old incandescent bulbs for an equal

number of new ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs).

The exchanges were facilitated by first year students through a service learning component of UVC 101 designed to engage them in this year’s common text, *An Inconvenient Truth* by Al Gore. The project’s aim was to educate students about the importance of energy conservation and give them the opportunity to address climate change in a tangible way. Fourteen UVC 101 sections performed community

service by promoting the project and/or facilitating the exchanges in Hamilton Hall, Honors Hall and the Woods Community September 19-25.

The project was coordinated through collaboration between University College, Residence Services, Environmental Health and Safety, Purchasing and Materials Management. Funding for the new CFLs came from a Teaching Enhancement Grant from the University.

Special thanks to Yasmeen Khan, Coordinator, Service Learning and Civic Engagement, University College, for this submission

Are You Moving Out Of Your Lab????

In our last newsletter we included an article with this same title summarizing *Wright Way Policy 6015: Exit Policy for the Closeout/Decommissioning of University Laboratories*. To assist those individuals who are moving out of a lab and relocating elsewhere on campus, such as moving into the

new Diggs Research Lab, **we have put together a guideline document to use for the physical move of chemicals from one location to another.** These guidelines were designed to reduce the risk of an accidental release in an uncontrolled area during transport and to reduce the



hazard if there is a release. A copy of the guidelines can be obtained by calling EHS at ext. 2215 or from our website at www.wright.edu/admin/ehs

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