



Safety Works

Committed to a safer environment for everyone!



If You
Are New,
We Want You!

The Environmental Health and Safety Office has been asked to present New Employee Training to all faculty and staff. A three-hour daytime session is offered on the third Thursday of each month. An evening class, split into two one and one-half hour sessions is offered on the third Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Employees may register by calling EH&S at ext. 7547, or sending an e-mail message to Marlene Peterson at mpeterson8@weber.edu.

WCF



Two Kudos
for EH&S

June brought two awards to WSU's Environmental Health and Safety staff:

- Workers Compensation Fund 2001 Safety Shield Award for an outstanding safety record and practices;
- A State of Utah Labor Commission award for outstanding achievement in the area of workplace safety, and for participating in their awareness campaign to "Take Safety Seriously".

New 15-Passenger Van Policy



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a cautionary warning to users of 15-passenger vans because of an increased rollover risk under certain conditions. As a result, State Risk Management recommended all state agencies adopt van use policies that reduce risks to passengers in state owned vans. WSU requires van drivers to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Drivers must possess either a Commercial Drivers License, or complete an eight-hour van driver certification training course;
- Drivers must be at least 21 years old, and must not have received any traffic citations within twelve months prior to applying for certification;
- Drivers may not drive more than 12 hours per day, nor operate vans for more than four hours at a time without a two-hour break from driving, nor may they operate vans between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. (*except when a trip returning to home base lasts under four hours*);
- Drivers may not carry more than 12 passengers in a van (*including the driver*);
- Drivers must ensure equipment carried in vans is properly loaded and secured (*No equipment may be carried on top of vans.*);
- Drivers are responsible for becoming familiar with the location of van controls (*headlights, windshield wipers, heat, air conditioning, and other controls on the instrument panel*) before beginning a trip;
- Drivers must review weather conditions before the trip, ensure travel plans allow for emergency stops and expenses due to bad weather, and exercise additional caution (*i.e., slow down*) if adverse weather, road, or other conditions arise.

Here's How to Register for Van Certification . . .

WSU's Department of Public Safety provides van driver certification courses for \$10 per person. Class size is limited to 20 individuals per session. Participants receive four hours of classroom training, are given a written examination, and perform three to four hours of driving with a trainer. Training is scheduled through Mikka Dahle at extension 7936, or at Internet address mdahle@weber.edu.



Cell Phone Safety on the Highway

Cell phones are wonderful tools when used safely. Don't wait for a set of laws governing cell phone use on the road—use common sense!

- Use your cell phone only when your car is parked, or let a passenger answer it;
- Never dial the phone or take notes while driving;
- If your phone rings while you are driving, let your voice mail answer, park, then listen to the message;
- If you *must* answer your phone while driving, keep it where it is easy to see and reach, ask the caller to hold, and pull to the side of the road before continuing the conversation (*or arrange to call them back, or for them to call you later, when you will not be driving*);
- Avoid stressful or emotional conversations while driving.

Source: National Safety Council Magazine, July/August 2001, p. 21

MSDS Available On-Line



www.weber.edu/ehs.

A customer friendly system is now available on campus to access Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). An MSDS is a document which provides important safety information to know before using a chemical. The easily accessible Web software, MSDSPro, contains about 73,300 MSDS. Internet access is available to the database: www.weber.edu/ehs. Click on WSU Material Safety databases.



Crossword Puzzle Contest

Win dinner on Javier!

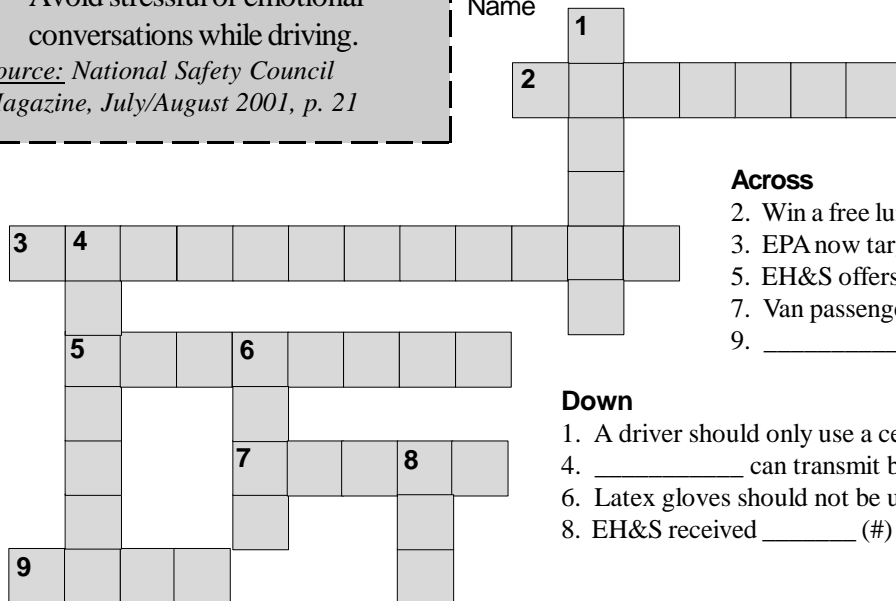
Instructions:

Using information from this issue of *Safety Works*, complete the puzzle below. Attach this entry form, and submit both to EH&S in Annex 5 (basement) at mail code 3002, **by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 9**. EH&S will draw 12 names Thursday, November 1, 2001, and will notify prize winners. (*Prize dinners were donated by Javier's.*)

Name _____

Telephone _____

Mail Code _____



Across

2. Win a free lunch from _____ (p. 2)
3. EPA now targeting _____ (p. 3)
5. EH&S offers New _____ Training (p. 1)
7. Van passengers must wear seat _____ (p. 1)
9. _____ provide safety info about chemicals (p. 2)

Down

1. A driver should only use a cell phone when the car is _____ (p. 2)
4. _____ can transmit bloodborne pathogens (p. 3)
6. Latex gloves should not be used in _____ (p. 4)
8. EH&S received _____ (#) awards (p. 1)

EH&S Manager Leaving WSU

Nancy Fox Leaving

Nancy Fox, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, will soon leave WSU and move to Star Valley Wyoming. (*Her husband will be the new Fish Biologist for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.*) Once settled in the Afton area, Nancy plans to pursue EH&S work for a local health department, government agency, small industry, or mining entity. She may even start a consulting company, and pursue a Distance Learning MBA degree.

More pressing plans include taking piano lessons, being a girl scout leader, refining her new wine making skills, and spending more time with her family, and outdoors.

Unfinished Business

Although Nancy recognizes her EH&S team has accomplished a great deal to improve employee safety and regulatory compliance at WSU, she knows much remains to be done. She encourages continued campus support of safety programs when a new EH&S manager comes on board.

Many Thanks!

Nancy has enjoyed working with all the employees at WSU. She especially acknowledges the support of the Administrative Services Vice President's Office, the Quality Support and Training Office, many individuals who have taken the initiative to improve safety in their own departments, and the dedicated and professional EH&S staff.

She Will Be Missed

All WSU employees have reaped the benefits of Nancy Fox's years of conscientious efforts to improve campus safety.

Quality Support and Training Director, Cherrie Nelson, said: Nancy has exhibited foresight and dedication to shaping the future of Environmental Health and Safety at Weber State University. She brought skills, experience, and technical training necessary to update existing programs, establish new training programs, and elevate campus awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

EH&S Strategic Plan

The EH&S staff recently met for a one day retreat to review and revise their strategic plan. Established two years ago, the four-year plan, identifies the mission and vision of the EH&S office:

EH&S Mission

- Encourage a safe and healthy campus;
- Protect the natural environment;
- Safeguard university assets.

EH&S Vision

A campus community that values and integrates environmental and occupational health and safety into their daily activities.

You may request a copy of the EH&S strategic plan from Marlene Peterson, 626-7547.

8 Ways the EH&S Team has promoted safety

Here are eight specific accomplishments of the EH&S staff under Nancy's direction:

- 1) Raising campus awareness of the importance of safety and environmental compliance;
- 2) Promoting increased occupational and environmental regulation compliance;
- 3) *Significantly* improving relationships between EH&S and campus departments, including partnering with various campus divisions and departments on safety issues;
- 4) Establishing a trackable, compliant, hazardous waste program;
- 5) Developing an accident/hazard investigation and resolution program, integrated with progressive workers compensation claims management;
- 6) Implementing numerous safety training classes, including: *New Employee Safety Training*;
- 7) Integrating information technology by establishing an EH&S Intranet server, tower system, and Web site to more efficiently share safety and regulatory information, and to better utilize university resources;
- 8) Creating an EH&S mission statement, vision, and strategic plan outlining departmental goals for a four year period, with periodic revisions to recognize accomplished goals and set new goals.



Impact on WSU

Ice Sheet Curling Venue Commander, Lieutenant Dane LeBlanc, provided answers to questions about how the games will impact life at WSU during the 2002 Olympics. Additional information is available from WSU's Olympic Web site:

www.weber.edu/olympics2002.

If you still have questions after reading the information provided on this pages, you may contact Lt. LeBlanc at 626-8003.

Olympic Questions & Answers



Safety

Will I be safe coming to work at Weber during the Olympics?

Absolutely! We are in the process of enhancing campus law enforcement efforts for the games. You will see an increased presence of officers on campus, as well as at the venue.

What about an anthrax threat?

Anthrax is very difficult to deliver to intended victims. During the Olympics, all air quality issues will be monitored, and food will be pre-screened. Venues will probably be the safest places in the state!

Volunteers

Will WSU recruit volunteers to work on the ice sheet venue?

The Department of Public Safety is now searching for volunteers for a few jobs, including observing surveillance monitors, running errands, and performing clerical duties.

Must I use my vacation?

Yes, and you must work with your supervisor to schedule hours that will not inconvenience your department. Keep in mind that President Thompson recently granted two additional personal holidays to be used only during the Olympics (February 4-22.)

Commuting & Parking

Will I have difficulty commuting to my job?

We anticipate traffic congestion will be much less than it is during school. Because Winter Olympics historically attract about 1/3 the number of visitors as Summer Games, we expect about 1,300 spectators to come to the Ice Sheet venue.

Will there be adequate parking for me during the games?

All of the A-lots will be available to employees. WSU has only allocated to SLOC the residence halls and upper W-5 parking lots. Brian Shuppy, WSU Institutional Analyst, indicated about 1,240 full-time and part-time employees could be at work, and none of the 17,000 students will be required to be on campus.

Which roads near the campus will be closed to normal traffic?

The only road being closed for the Olympics will be 4600 South, east of Harrison, between Old Post Road and Taylor Avenue.

Will Ogden Canyon and Trappers Loop be closed to people who live in Ogden Valley?

No. Those roads are scheduled to remain open for public use during the games.

Regulatory Updates



Needle Stick Prevention Act mandates OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard Revision

Last November, Congress approved the Needle Stick Prevention Act, mandating OSHA to revise the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard to minimize needle sticks, and other sharps injuries. (*Needle sticks present a major occupational risk for transmission of bloodborne pathogens.*) Revisions require employers to comply as described below.

Employer compliance deadlines:

- Implement a sharps injury log that includes the type of device involved in the incident, the department where the exposure occurred, and an explanation of how the incident occurred **by January 1, 2002**;
- Solicit input from non-managerial employees to identify, evaluate and select exposure prevention controls **by October 18, 2002**;
- Consider and implement appropriate commercially available and effective medical devices designed to eliminate exposures to blood **by October 18, 2002**.

Background Information

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease. These pathogens include, but are not limited to Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The 1991 OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard was issued to protect employees who are exposed to human blood at work. To comply with this standard, WSU's Environmental Health and Safety Office and Biosafety Committee developed and maintains a university exposure control plan (View it at <http://www.weber.edu/ehs>. *Select Biosafety, then Exposure Control Plan*). The Nursing Department developed and maintains its own plan, which also addresses nursing specific situations.

EH&S staff works with the Campus Biosafety Committee, College of Health Professions faculty and staff, and Student Health Center staff, to coordinate university compliance with the Standard.

EPA Targets Universities for Compliance



Educational institutions produce some of the same environmental impacts as small cities, and are required to fulfill numerous environmental responsibilities. Recent EPA inspections of universities have revealed non-compliance in the following areas:

- Improper handling and disposing of hazardous waste;
- Inadequate air quality controls over emissions from boilers and furnaces;
- Improper abatement of lead-based paint and asbestos.

Fines for noncompliance can be costly. (*The University of Hawaii was fined \$1.8 million for improperly managing laboratory waste.*) Academic institutions that have not received fines have been required to perform supplemental environmental projects involving significant resources.

The WSU EH&S office has implemented the following programs to continuously improve regulatory compliance:

- Distribution of a hazardous waste handling poster;
- Training on hazardous materials and waste handling;
- Work area inspections;
- Annual air emissions inventory to monitor boiler, furnace and other emissions;
- Asbestos and lead programs.



Latex Gloves Are Not to be used in Labs or with Hazardous Chemicals

Latex gloves are only appropriate to use when handling most biological materials; non-hazardous chemicals; very dilute, aqueous solutions of hazardous chemicals; clean work area requirements; and medical or veterinary applications. With few exceptions, latex gloves are not recommended for use with laboratory chemicals. In most laboratory applications, nitrile gloves are far superior to latex.

Why latex gloves should not be used in labs, or for hazardous chemicals:

- 1) *Processes and chemicals used in labs change often*—Gloves which afford protection for materials used in one process may offer little or no protection from those used in a replacement process.
- 2) *Latex gloves can severely degrade in a matter of seconds, or minutes, when used with some materials*—For information about chemicals which are not compatible with latex gloves, consult glove selection charts in chemical and safety supply company catalogs, and on the Internet. (See *glove selection chart Web sites at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/latexalt.html>*. Direct glove and chemical compatibility questions to Hazardous Materials Specialist Richard Sandau, ext. 8004, or rsandau@weber.edu.)
- 3) *Many people develop adverse reactions to the naturally occurring proteins contained in latex products*—Reactions range from simple contact dermatitis, including itchy skin and rashes, to severe allergic reactions, which may include respiratory symptoms and difficulty breathing. Information about latex allergies is available on the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Web site.

Supervisors are responsible for selecting personal protective equipment (including gloves) used by their employees. Employees who are required to wear latex gloves should receive training about the potential health effects related to latex.

Substitute gloves for employees with latex sensitivities (*examples: hypoallergenic, non-powdered or nitrile gloves*) are available through EH&S, ext. 7547.



EH&S Contacts

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