

Safety is a shared responsibility in a research university, where so many of our activities are interdependent. Overall, UC Irvine has an excellent safety record. In fact, UC Irvine was recently honored with the 2007 University of California President's Award for Excellence in Environment, Health and Safety.

Safety experts understand that there are few "freak accidents." Most workplace accidents are preceded by numerous near-misses and precursor events - often unrecognized as such. In a safety-conscious environment, employees feel empowered to stop work processes that are unsafe and to immediately bring workplace risks and near-misses to their supervisor's attention -- identifying hazards and making changes before precursors evolve, unnoticed, into tragic accidents. In such an environment, workplace risks are discussed and addressed during the planning process, training is completed before performing risky procedures, and safety equipment and protective clothing is used appropriately.

It is important that we all integrate safety into our work place. We encourage everyone to move this effort forward and visit <http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/iipp/index.html>. To report injuries, incidents, or safety concerns on-line, go to <http://www.ehs.uci.edu/apps/hr/index.jsp>. If you need help evaluating your unit's readiness, training, and physical environment from a safety standpoint, please contact Marc Gomez at magomez@uci.edu or (949) 824-6889.

Thank you for your role in fostering a safe campus and Medical Center.

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