



Safety Matters

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Safety starts with an "S"
but begins with "YOU"!

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BIODIESEL SHUTTLE BUSES

In a collective effort, Student Government (ASUCI), Environmental Health & Safety, Fleet Services, and Parking & Transportation Services are proud to announce that the campus began running one of its 10 shuttle busses with 100% biodiesel (aka., B100) on March 19, 2007. The initiative to convert fleet vehicles stems from a policy issued by the University of California, Office of the Presidents (UCOP), which UC Irvine and the other 9 UC Campuses have committed to implement, to become greener and cleaner. Using B100 will assist in meeting the policy's initiatives and allow UC Irvine to become a carbon neutral campus.

UC Irvine is the first UC campus to use B100 to fuel its shuttle buses. Moreover, UC Irvine is also using B20, a mixture of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent diesel, for the remaining fleet vehicles that are diesel powered (e.g., solid waste and recycling trucks).

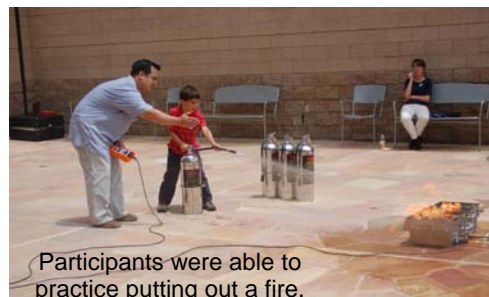


For additional information on the B100 Shuttle Bus Program, please contact Tim Rudek at x45547, Stacey Murren at x46302, or Dick Sun at x46200.

WELLNESS AND SAFETY FAIR

On May 16, 2007, the Wellness and Safety Fair was presented by Campus Recreation, Environmental Health & Safety, Human Resources, Materiel & Risk Management, Parking & Transportation Services, and the Campus Police Department at the Anteater Recreation Center.

Attendees learned about medical plans, mental health initiatives, financial investments, personal wellness, staying in shape, and safety issues, such as ergonomics and emergency management, by visiting the many booths which provided information, resources, motivation, and incentives.



Participants were able to practice putting out a fire.

EH&S would like to recognize the following individuals for their efforts during this event:

- **Geoffrey Repass**, for cleaning up the broken glass on the outdoor patio area.
- **Robert Vega and Geoffrey Repass**, for setting up the tables in a safe manner and reminding others to lift and move tables appropriately to avoid injury.
- **B. Walden, C. Anderson, J. Franz, J. Wissa, B. Frankin, S. Michaelson, Y. Choo, S. Slavin, R. Gauss, M. Ephrem**, for their participation in CSAR and sharing their experiences at the fair.



Rewarding Safe Acts Awardees

EH&S has recently recognized and rewarded the following people for engaging in activities and behavior that foster a safe work environment.

School of Physical Sciences-Chemistry:

H. Urakami, G. Sun, C. Popeney, D. Leung, H. Zhang

Safe Act: Removed flooded water after use of an emergency shower.

John Huckins, Robert Bahde

Safe Act: Maintaining an extremely clean fume hood while performing experiments.

School of Medicine-Billing:

Lorraine Ward

Safe Act: Ensured that new employees had a safe workstation set up.

Administrative and Business Services-Facilities Management:

Emilio Avalos

Safe Act: Oversees bi-weekly safety meetings and coordinates quarterly safety meetings.

Rafael Feliciano

Safe Act: Created a safety manual for his work area.

Joe Aiello

Safe Act: Managing the retrofit of roof ladders and access hatches.

School of Engineering-Integrated Nanosystems Research Facility:

Trang Bui

Safe Act: Long term use of clean room with outstanding work practices.

School of Medicine-Radiological Sciences:

Jan Detwiler

Safe Act: Ensured that all Radiological Sciences employees took Ergonomics online training.

Administrative and Business Services-Administrative Computing Services:

Sue Crawford

Safe Act: Provided efficiency in procurement of ergonomic equipment for departmental employees.

Sonja Elson

Safe Act: Updated the SNAP Ergonomics web page.

School of Engineering-Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

Michael Crespín

Safe Act: Directed pedestrians while equipment was being moved on loading dock.

Cell Phone Radiation

To date there have been no peer-reviewed scientific studies which have demonstrated that cell phone radiation is dangerous or causes brain cancer. But it is always a good idea to use cell phones wisely since they have not been in common use for sufficient time for long-term health effects studies to be performed. Here are some general rules to follow in order to reduce your exposure to radiofrequency (RF) radiation emitted by cell phones:



Use a corded phone ("land line") if one is available, since they do not involve any exposure to RF radiation. Corded phones ideally should be used for normal day-to-day communication needs -- especially for lengthy personal phone calls and by persons who use their phones for hours each day for business purposes.



Use an earpiece, headset, or the speaker phone setting, all of which greatly reduce your RF radiation exposure because the phone is not held next to your head. Using text messaging is also a good way to reduce RF exposure to your head.

Be aware that a cell phone radiates to some degree even when it is on but not actually in use. Since the cell phone is always in RF contact with a nearby cell phone site/base station when it is on, a small amount of RF radiation is always emitted. However, this radiation is much less than that emitted when the phone is in use. You can avoid this exposure by either keeping the phone off (using it as an answering machine) or having it away from your body.

Keep in mind that the greatest health hazard by far related to cell phone use is inattention/lack of concentration by the user. This is particularly true for cell phone use when driving, but there have also been reports of cell phone users on foot walking into automobile or bicycle traffic, and into trenches/holes. Make sure you only use a cell phone when you can concentrate on the phone call without needing to be alert to other hazards.

For more information regarding cell phone radiation, contact Rick Mannix, x46098, or rcmannix@uci.edu.

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Oil and the Environment – Not a Good Mix

Oil is a natural product of the earth, which provides the ingredients for thousands of products that are used everyday. It also poses a potential problem to the environment when improperly managed. Oil spills on land, rivers, bays, and the ocean are mostly caused by accidents involving pipelines, tankers, human mistakes, and natural disasters.



Oil spills are harmful to marine life such as fish, birds, and mammals.

Oil forms a film on the surface of rivers and lakes that can reduce oxygen levels, making it difficult for fish to breathe. It can also coat plants and animals that come in contact with it. If you have oil that you would like to dispose of please visit <http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/enviro/>

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN?



The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) reminds us that natural and man-made disasters can strike at any time and urges all Californians to develop a family communications plan. OES Director Henry Renteria has said it's important to prepare a family emergency communications plan so, "everyone will know who to call for help and how to safely reunite with each other." Your plan has two functions: provide contact information for emergency responders and establish a plan to communicate and reunite with loved ones if an event separates family members. At a minimum, your plan should include:

- Names and numbers for all household members,
- Name and number for family doctor or medical facility,
- Name and number of a designated out-of-town contact,
- Family meeting place outside of the neighborhood

For more individual and family preparedness tips, see <http://www.readyoc.org/> or <http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/emergman/yourEPlan.htm>

NO MORE CHARCOAL BBQs!

The use of charcoal and charcoal barbecues on campus will be discontinued starting Fall Quarter 2007. Eliminating the use of charcoal reduces greenhouse gas emissions, improves air quality, offsets carbon dioxide emissions, and promotes fire safety practices.



Electric or gas-fired barbecues use cleaner energy sources and are approved for use at University-sponsored activities. The switch-out from charcoal to gas/electric barbecues will be a three phase process:



Phase 1 was completed in January 2007. EH&S worked with Scheduling and Conference Services and the appropriate divisions of the Dean of Students to notify students of the upcoming changes. Beginning Fall Quarter 2007, EH&S will issue temporary food permits for a scheduled event, only if gas or electric barbecuing equipment will be used at the event.

Currently in *Phase 2*, EH&S is communicating to all students, faculty, and staff about the new guidelines restricting the use of charcoal barbecues for intra-departmental functions and/or lending such equipment to other campus entities. All charcoal barbecues should be replaced with gas-fired or electric units within the next two years or sooner.

Phase 3 involves the replacement of existing charcoal barbecues within Student Housing (as funding becomes available), and the implementation of a voluntary replacement program among University Hills residents.

Your cooperation and participation in the replacement of charcoal barbecues is greatly appreciated. By following these program guidelines, every member of the campus community can assist in the reduction of the carbon imprint we make on our environment and within our campus community. Please contact Jim Pack at x44170 or jgpack@uci.edu for more information.



Avoiding Cryovial Explosions

Cryovials can explode due to internal pressure buildup. Pressure build up is caused when liquid nitrogen, which expands significantly when vials warm, enters the vial during cryostorage. Researchers can minimize liquid nitrogen intrusion by following two important steps.

First, avoid overtightening the cap. When overtightened, the seal crinkles, which allows liquid and cold nitrogen vapors to enter the vial. Second, adjust the storage levels inside the dewar to keep the vials in the vapor phase above the liquid phase.



The following is an excerpt from Corning regarding this:

To avoid injury, DO NOT immerse plastic or glass cryogenic vials in liquified nitrogen gas. Vials immersed in liquified gases can develop leaks. When they are eventually returned to room temperature, pressure can rapidly buildup and shatter the vials and cap seals. Harmful or biohazardous materials contained in the vials may be released. Always store vials above liquid nitrogen to reduce these potential hazards.

When cryovials explode, staff can be injured from projectiles and suffer exposure to whatever was in the vial. Open cryovials in a biosafety cabinet to protect yourself from exposure to biohazards. Wearing eye protection protects against projectiles.

For more information, contact Chris Haug at chris.haug@uci.edu.