

Safety Matters



2009 Wellness & Safety Fair

Come to the Fair! The third annual Wellness and Safety Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 20th, from 11 am to 2 pm at the ARC. Funded by *Be Smart About Safety* (BSAS), the goal of the Fair is to encourage a healthy lifestyle and increase the awareness of wellness activities, programs, and resources on campus. You will also find educational tools on preventing campus injuries, illness, and environmental incidents through increasing safety awareness. The various booths and programs will include:

- Nutrition experts – Healthy food samples
- Exercise programs – Mini classes on site
- Fire extinguisher demonstrations - Put out a fire!
- Safety shoes
- Disaster preparedness
- Ergonomic tips
- Safety On Site guidelines
- Recycling tips
- And much more!



Ride your bike, walk with a friend, or take a UCI shuttle.

You will be greeted with music, raffle prizes, gifts, and kettle corn!

Mark your Calendar

- March 27, 2009
 - Cesar Chavez Holiday
- April 18, 2009
 - [UCI Open House](#)
- April 22, 2009
 - [Earth Day](#)
 - Admin Professionals Day
- May 20, 2009
 - [Wellness and Safety Fair](#)
- May 25, 2009
 - Memorial Day Holiday
- May 30 - June 14, 2009
 - Graduation Ceremonies

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The Fair is a partnership between Campus Recreation, EH&S, Facilities Management, Human Resources, Parking & Transportation Services, and UCI Police. Visit the Wellness and Safety Fair website at <http://www.hr.uci.edu/wellnessandsafety/fair.html>

Be Smart About Safety - Ergo Aid Fund

Time is running out! Over a hundred UCI employees have received the benefit of this Ergo Aid since it's inception in 2007. If you have completed an ergonomic evaluation in the current fiscal year, 2008-2009, you may be eligible to apply for this fund. Ergo Aid is a reimbursement program that provides up to **\$100** for purchased ergonomic equipment recommended by EH&S during an ergonomic evaluation.

For more detailed information on how to qualify, visit: <http://snap.uci.edu/viewXmlFile.jsp?resourceID=2983>.



Thank You to Our Safety Partners – Spring 2009

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



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Epidemiology

Deborah Bringman

Safe Act: 10 years of service to the Zone Crew and Emergency Management.

SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Community & Environmental Medicine

Michael Buchmeier

Safe Act: Allowed EH&S use of his bio-safety level 3 lab for use in a training exercise.

Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

Cyril Bonhomme & Althea Capul

Safe Act: Assisted EH&S in a training exercise by familiarizing response team members to biosafety related lab activities.

Top Green Savings Tips for the Office

- Print on both sides of the paper.
- Turn off overhead lights. Instead, rely on task lights or daylight.
- Use your own cup/plate/utensils instead of disposables.
- Minimize use of color printing and print using the draft mode.
- Turn off computers at the end of the day.
- Recycle as much as possible.
- Reconsider your commute if you drive in to work alone.
- Bring your lunch from home more often.

Earth Day 2009 Activities

What are you doing on Earth Day? Go to the official website at <http://www.earthday.net/> to see what you can do to celebrate.

Here are links to activities that our fellow Californians will be participating in on that day...

- <http://calparks.org/programs/earth-day/>
- <http://www.livegreensanjoaquin.org/>
- <http://www.sacramentoearthday.net/>
- <http://www.venturacharterschool.org/earthday/index.html>
- http://www.roseville.ca.us/explore/earth_day/default.asp
- http://www.sanluisrey.org/index.php/events/event_list/earth_day
- http://ci.thousand-oaks.ca.us/government/depts/public_works/arbor.asp
- <http://ciedmeco.googlepages.com/arcadiaecohome4theearthdayevent>



Note these dates!

Free Electronic Waste Recycling Sponsored By EH&S. Drop off your CRTs and eWaste from 9:00am to 12:00noon at:

April 13, 2009
Steinhaus Hall
Loading Dock

June 8, 2009
Langson Library
Loading Dock

'Green up' your emergency supplies kit:

1. Recycle an old backpack to carry your emergency supplies in.
2. Use a crank or shaker flashlight to avoid using disposable batteries.
3. Toss in an old pair of eyeglasses in case your current pair gets lost or damaged.
4. Remember folding money? Keep some small bills to handle incidental purchases.
5. Refill and pack travel size toiletries to save space (make sure they're labeled correctly).
6. Pack a comfortable old shirt, pair of slacks, and slightly worn shoes that aren't quite ready for the donation bin.
7. Those scratch pads your local realtor sends you in the mail? Toss in a couple along with a pencil or two.
8. Download and print pictures, thumbnails will do, of your family and your pets.
9. Save paper, space, and weight by loading up a jump drive with copies or scans of valuable documents.
10. Give your old gardening gloves or household tools a second life as emergency supplies.



Lab Fire Involving Pyrophorics

On December 29, 2008, UCLA experienced a lab fire that resulted in injuries to a lab employee. The employee was working with T-butyl lithium dissolved in a solvent. The transfer of the prophetic and solvent was being conducted via a syringe. When the plunger of the syringe was accidentally pulled all the way out, the material was exposed to the atmosphere which resulted in a flash fire in and around a fume hood.



For more news and information on this unfortunate incident, go to <http://chancellor.ucla.edu/updates/laboratory-safety-on-campus>. To learn how to prevent a similar incident from occurring in your lab, read the article on page 4.

Ladder Safety

In 2005 (the last year with available data), falls from portable ladders caused 12 fatalities in California workplaces. To help prevent injuries and deaths, federal OSHA offers these safety tips for portable ladders:

- Read and follow all labels and markings on the ladder. Do not exceed the maximum load rating listed.
- Be careful of electrical hazards. Look for power lines overhead before handling the ladder. Do not use a metal ladder near power lines or exposed electrical equipment.
- Always inspect the ladder before use. Damaged ladders are to be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded.
- Always maintain three-point contact (two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand) with the ladder. Keep your body near the middle of the step and always face the ladder when climbing.
- Before ascending, make sure that the ladder is free of slippery material on the rungs, steps, and feet.
- Do not use the top step or rung of a stepladder or the top three rungs of a straight, single, or extension ladder.
- Only use a ladder on a stable and level surface unless it has been secured to prevent displacement.
- Do not move or shift a ladder while anything is on the ladder.
- An extension or straight ladder used to access an elevated surface should extend at least 3 feet above the point of support.
- The appropriate angle to set up a ladder is to place its base a quarter of the ladder's length from the wall or other vertical surface.
- Be sure to properly engage all locks on extension ladders.



EH&S At Work 2008

647

Construction and Renovation plans reviewed

Days averaged turn around time per plan (14 days is standard)

6.5

1,011

Number of Fume Hoods tested

Failed and required immediate fixing

6.33%

383,702

Pounds of Hazardous Waste processed through EH&S and diverted from landfills.

Number of Hazardous Waste Pickups

5711

1,991

Number of ergonomic risk factors identified from the first visit of assessment

Number of ergonomic risk factors reduced from the first visit of assessment

1,036

Working Safely With Reactive Chemicals

The UC community is shocked and aggrieved by the recent death of a UCLA researcher. As a community of researchers, safety for ourselves and each other should always be in our sights. If you see one of your fellow researchers/co-workers putting themselves in a dangerous situation, say something! When training a new lab member, please be diligent about safety.



There are thousands of chemicals at UCI that have risks associated with their use. Historically, campus lab accidents are primarily due to:

- Inadequate knowledge of the hazards involved (lack of training)
- Improper technique
- Poor work practices

BEFORE starting your experiment:

1. Consult with your PI and confirm that approval has been received when working with highly hazardous materials.
2. Read the relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), technical bulletins, and guidance documents to understand and know how to mitigate the hazards. Review the MSDS before using an unfamiliar chemical. A periodic review serves as a good reminder.
3. Prepare a written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) identifying the safety precautions specific to the operations. A sample SOP for working with pyrophorics is available on the EH&S website at http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/sop_library/.

Consider performing a “dry run” to identify and resolve possible hazards before conducting the actual procedure.

Users of highly hazardous materials, such as pyrophorics, must be trained in proper lab technique and be able to demonstrate proficiency.

Use less toxic or hazardous substances.

4. Perform a hazard analysis of your experiment and identify the failure modes in your experiment. Be prepared to handle accidents.

5. Know the location of eyewash/showers, fire alarm pulls, fire extinguishers, and emergency exits.
6. Complete required EH&S safety training requirements (www.ted.uci.edu) and lab specific training.

When performing experiments:

1. Use the buddy system. Do not work alone or off hours when there are few people around to help.
2. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, such as lab coat, safety glasses/goggles/face shield, and chemical resistant gloves.
3. Maintain good work practices.
4. Minimize the quantity of chemicals used and stored and use the smallest amount possible. It is better to do multiple transfers of small volumes than to attempt to handle larger quantities.

We are on the map & on the web!

Have a suggestion or topic of interest for our next issue? Email us at dhamano@uci.edu!

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