With the holiday season fast approaching, there are many things we need to think about and plan for. From family and friends to presents and parties, there are many items on our respective plates. This is just a reminder to make sure holiday safety is one of those items.

Trees
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green and needles are hard to pull from branches, and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. When tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, heating vents, or portable heaters. Places the tree so it is out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- Make sure artificial trees are flame retardant.

Lights & Candles
- Use only lights that have been tested for safety by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- Don’t string more than 200 midget or 50 larger bulbs through one string.
- Don’t connect more than 3 sets of lights on the same extension cord.

Cut a diagonal slice off the tree trunk to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and helps to keep the tree from drying out.

Keep the stand filled with water - heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.

Global Warming Solutions for America

For more information on this event, go to http://www.sustainability.uci.edu/focus.html or contact Montgomery Norton at focusthenation.uci@gmail.com

EH&S has scheduled a free electronic waste recycling event on Thursday, January 31st from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at Langson Library Loading Dock.

Inside this issue:
- Rewarding Safe Acts Awardees
- Zone Crew—School of Medicine
- Reducing Air Pollution
- Holiday Safety Continued...
Rewarding Safe Acts – Summer 2007

EH&S has recently recognized and rewarded the following people for engaging in activities and behavior that foster a safe work environment. Incentives provided by EH&S and the Office of the President include Starbucks gift cards and Safety Dollars, which can be redeemed at most campus establishments.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Pathology:
Jun Yuan
Safe Act: Reduced lab clutter and increased level of good housekeeping.

Microbiology & Molecular Genetics:
Charlene Anderson
Barbara Carlyle
Rozanne Sandri-Goldin
Safe Act: Provided leadership in advancing departmental SOS program.

Anatomy and Neurobiology:
Piper Hollenbeck
Safe Act: Spearheaded efforts to eliminate slips, trips, and falls from the lab.

Orthopaedic Surgery:
Michael Baker
Safe Act: Developed SOPs for general use of xylene and provided it to EH&S for their resource library.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Arroyo Vista Housing:
Nelly Ortega
Safe Act: Translated the Back Injury Prevention Training into Spanish for Housing maintenance and custodial staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE & BUSINESS SERVICES

Facilities Management:
(received $5 Starbucks gift card)
Brad Barclay
Safe Act: Identified unsafe condition by Student Center construction & reported it to EH&S.
Rob Rice
Safe Act: Managed the trip hazards project.
Stephen George
Safe Act: Routinely cleans up grease spills as quickly as he sees them.
Gerald Nearhoof
Safe Act: Shared expertise in HVAC systems, remote controls, and shelter-in-place procedures to SOM building coordinators and floor wardens.
Dewayne Ogelvie
Safe Act: Assisted in containing a large grease spill.
Joe Neill
Safe Act: Brought attention to the fact that there are no anchors to “tie off” when you are wearing a body harness and working at heights on student housing buildings.
Paul Padilla
Safe Act: Identified several slip, trip, and fall hazards in a stairwell in Steinhaus Hall.
Brian Grochow
Safe Act: Identified a raised section of concrete which posed a bicycle safety concern.

Human Resources:
Glenn Rodriguez
Safe Act: Identified and eliminated a slip, trip, and fall hazard from the kitchen area.
Melodie McCulloch
Safe Act: Notified the proper authorities about a smoldering trash can in Aldrich Park.

For more information regarding the Rewarding Safety Acts program, please go to the EH&S website at http://www.ehs.uci.edu/
Zone Crew - School of Medicine

The School of Medicine Zone Crew (Zone 8) held its annual emergency preparation and planning meeting on September 19, 2007. Over 60 Zone Crew members enjoyed a celebratory luncheon to say “Thank you!” for serving as Building Coordinators and Floor Wardens. Receiving “Be Smart About Safety” awards for sharing lessons learned from recent building evacuation drills were: Charlene Anderson, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics; Tom Dotson, Office of Research – ULAR; Jeff Dillon, SOM Planning and Facilities Management; Dennis Ta, Physiology and Biophysics; Lutz Hilgenberg, Anatomy and Neurobiology; Brenda McDougall, Pathology.

UCI Police, Emergency Management, and Facilities Management presented updated campus Shelter-in-Place (SIP) procedures - our campus strategy to maximize safety when hazards, such as toxic releases or active shooters, exist outside the building. Lt. Baltazar De La Riva and Sgt. Mark Arnold also received BSAS awards for customizing their SIP presentation for the School of Medicine audience. For 2008, Zone 8 is scheduling drills to increase response capabilities with the hands-on practice of evacuation and SIP procedures.

Please consider volunteering to help on the Zone Crew by contacting your area Zone Captain. More information on the campus Emergency Action Plan, Zone Crews, and the Zone Map is available at:


You Can Help Reduce Air Pollution - I

Every time you drive to work or school, use your heater or air conditioner, clean your windows, or even style your hair, you make choices that can reduce or increase air pollution.

This Part I article shows you how to reduce air pollution. When more people make clean air their business, we will all breathe easier.

Drive Less

One big way to reduce air pollution is to drive less, even a little less. Fewer trips in your car or truck will help cut air pollution. Driving less doesn't mean you have to stay home. Try combining driving with other ways of getting where you want to go:

1. Carpool
2. Walk or ride a bike
3. Ride public transit
4. Shop online

Try some of the ways described above, it will make a difference. Then, spread the work and let other people know what you've learned!

For information on Alternative Transportation at UCI, go to http://www.parking.uci.edu/AT/
Holiday Safety Continued

- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials - do not use candles to decorate trees. Never leave the house with your candles still burning.

Food Safety

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on cooking equipment.
- Defrost turkeys in the refrigerator - NEVER at room temperature. Start thawing the frozen turkey in the refrigerator several days before cooking.
- It's important to keep foods out of the danger zone. Keep hot foods hot, at least 140°F (60°C), and cold foods cold, at 40°F (4°C) or lower.
- Place leftovers in shallow containers so they cool quickly. Once the food stops steaming, cover and refrigerate.

Holiday Travel

- Never drink alcohol and drive.
- Leave an itinerary with a friend so someone knows where you are.
- Get a good night's sleep before starting on the road.
- Don’t overload your vehicle or obstruct your view with packages.
- If traveling in winter weather, carry emergency equipment such as first aid kit, blankets, compass, flashlight, and flares.
- ALWAYS BUCKLE UP!!!! It’s the law.

From our workplace to yours, have a “Healthy and Safe” holiday season!

Holiday Stress

- Don’t blow your budget.
- Budget your time as well as your money.
- Start planning your gift list early.
- Don’t try to do everything yourself.
- Make some fun plans for January when the post holiday blues set in.

We are on the map & on the web!