The Great ShakeOut Drill

Where were you on
July 29, 2008 – 11:42:15 a.m.?

If you were here on campus, you probably felt the 5.4 magnitude Chino Hills Earthquake. Other than a few frayed nerves, the campus suffered no apparent damage.

Living in Southern California, we know that there’s always a bigger one on the way. At 10 a.m. on November 13, you can join millions of Southern Californians in the ShakeOut Drill, the largest earthquake preparedness activity in U.S. history! The campus Emergency Operations Center will be conducting a table top exercise during this time. Individual workgroups and departments are encouraged to discuss earthquake preparedness and response, practice “Drop, Cover and Hold On,” and conduct localized evacuation drills. The ShakeOut Drill coincides with the annual state-wide emergency management response exercise, which will challenge emergency responders with a simulated 7.8 earthquake along the southern San Andreas Fault. Stay tuned to your local media outlets for information on “The Great ShakeOut” or visit the following website: http://www.shakeout.org/

Joint Emergency Response Drill With UCI & OCFA

The drill commenced with an alarm and evacuation of the INRF. Evacuation was coordinated by Floor Warden Ryan Smith and was accomplished quickly and smoothly. Zone Captain Elias Bordcosh was on hand to discuss the location of the assembly area and expectations for all faculty, staff, and students. Soon after, UCI EH&S Emergency Response Team and OCFA Station 4 personnel arrived and established command outside CalIT2. A briefing was held with INRF representative Jake Hes.

An “accident” occurred while changing out a compressed gas cylinder, resulting in the unintended release and contamination of two employees. The specific material was not known. Mr. Hes provided a typical inventory for the area. Two entries were made. The first was to perform rescue by removing the victims and to perform a preliminary assessment. The second was to perform additional assessment and containment or clean-up. Overall, EH&S and OCFA were very satisfied with the exercise, its outcome, and everyone’s performance.
Thanks to our Safety Partners – Fall 2008

EH&S recently recognized and rewarded the following people for engaging in activities and behavior that foster a safe work environment. These acts not only result in a safer environment for all, but also increase the awareness of safety as a shared responsibility.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Corporate Health
Esperanza Teter
Safe Act: Replaced an unsafe box cutter with a newer, safer style.

UNDERGRADUATE AFFAIRS
Student Media
Patricia Espinoza
Safe Act: Reported electrical hazard in women’s restroom.

The following individuals are being recognized for participating in the UC Biosafety Audit:
Michael Buchmeier - Molecular Biology & Biochemistry
Lu Forrest - Physiology & Biophysics
Don Forthal - Medicine
Jeff Goodwin - Office of Research/ULAR
Gary Landucci - ABSL-3/HIV lab
Chi Lee - HGT Coordinator, UCIMC
Claire Lindsell - Office of Research/ULAR
David Lyon - Anatomy & Neurobiology
Charles McGee - University Extension
Nieves Navaera - Student Health
Kyoko Yokomori - Biological Chemistry

The following individuals are being recognized for completing their chemical inventory on time:
Chris Beaudry - Chemistry
Camille Bonjean - Chemistry
Carl Boone - Physics
Lukas Holt - Chemistry
Thomas Mueller - Chemistry
Darla Powell - Chemistry
Tatyana Sheps - Physics
James Tiang - Chemistry
Eli Van Cleve - Physics
Daniele Vellucci - Chemistry

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES
Film & Media Studies
Vikki Duncan
Safe Act: Outstanding service to Zone Crew.
Composition Program
Jan Stevens
Safe Act: Outstanding service to Zone Crew.
Undergraduate Affairs
Carol Thompson
Safe Act: Outstanding service to Zone Crew.

What Is Wi-Fi and is it Safe?

Wi-Fi is an acronym for “wireless fidelity” and refers to a wireless network for computers that uses radiofrequency (RF) radiation for communication just like cell phones. Since Wi-Fi systems emit RF radiation, concern has been raised regarding its safety. However, Wi-Fi systems generally emit at a very low power (less than that of cell phones) and the power level falls off very rapidly beyond a few inches from the antennas.

There is a good deal of controversy lately about potential health effects caused by Wi-Fi radiation. Currently, it is believed by most scientists that Wi-Fi radiation exposure is safe for most people, with the possible exception being small children exposed for very long periods of time.

Although no health effects in children have been identified, it is recommended that children not sit for hours daily with a Wi-Fi laptop on their laps; placing the computers on a table is much safer.

The exposure to Wi-Fi radiation is somewhat additive if a person is in a room full of other people also on Wi-Fi. But since the radiated power drops off so rapidly with distance from the Wi-Fi antennas, most of a user’s exposure is from his/her own system unless other users are within a few feet away.

Exposure to Wi-Fi radiation is presently considered to be very safe. Studies on possible health effects caused by long-term Wi-Fi radiation exposure continue to be conducted. Some good websites for further reading regarding potential Wi-Fi radiation health effects are listed below.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/6676129.stm
http://www.redherring.com/Home/3752
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/6172257.stm
Slips, Trips, and Falls During Rainy Weather

Each year many people are injured on the job as a result of slip and fall accidents. Slips, trips, and falls together represent one of the most important single causes of injuries at work and at home. Although they occur for many reasons, slip and fall incidents are preventable if we strive to be aware of our surroundings and movements. This is an especially vulnerable time given the inclement weather we will be encountering.

- To avoid slips and resulting falls, be on the lookout for foreign substances on the floor. Watch for liquid spills such as water/coffee/other beverages, food, grease, oil, soap, or debris. Even small quantities of these substances can be slippery.

- When you come into a work area from outdoors in rainy weather, wipe your shoes thoroughly on a doormat, not just to keep the floor clean, but to prevent the wetness of your shoes from making you slip and perhaps fall. When walking, don’t turn too sharply when changing your direction.

- Stairways are meant for walking, not running. Use handrails especially during inclement weather, and if there is not enough light, please report it. Wear shoes that allow better traction. Stairwells are to be kept uncluttered, with some sort of non-slip coating applied to the steps. Inform your supervisor if you notice a step that is slick. Don’t carry objects up or down steps that may obstruct your view.

- Walk where you are supposed to walk. Don’t take shortcuts, especially through areas where it’s obvious pedestrian traffic is not intended to go.

- Always try and wear the best non-skid shoe possible. Shoes that have worn, smooth soles should not be worn. Avoid high heels during inclement weather.

- Being alert is one of the surest ways to reduce injuries caused by slips and falls. This includes being aware of your environment, personal safety, and the safety of others. Be safety-conscious.

Your home should be a safe haven. But do you regularly check for home fire hazards? If not, there is the potential for danger. Fire departments responded to nearly 400,000 home fires in 2006. That’s why the theme of Fire Prevention Week 2008 is “It’s Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!”

From October 5-11, 2008, fire safety advocates will spread the word to their communities that, with a little extra caution, preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical, and smoking-materials – is within their power.

Take the 2008 Fire Prevention Week Quiz and test your Fire Safety knowledge.


UCI students, faculty, and staff can sign up for training courses on Fire Prevention and Fire Extinguisher Safety Training through TED ([www.ted.uci.edu](http://www.ted.uci.edu)).
Congratulations to Back-to-Back Champs - Spiked Punch!

In a grueling duel on August 20, 2008 at the UCI Staff Appreciation Picnic, the EH&S Spiked Punch Volleyball Team swept the Chemistry Department for a second straight staff league championship. Team Members Ricardo Cruz, Richard Demerjian (Campus & Environmental Planning staff member), Steven Eros, Marc Gomez, David Melitz, Manjeet Randhawa, Christian Ritter, and Dick Sun pulled together to achieve an undefeated season. Once again, the #1 ranked Spiked Punch will be the team to beat come next season. Congratulations Spiked Punch!