Ever want to learn how to TANGO?

If so, you should attend EH&S annual TANGO to safety training. TANGO stands for Teaching Assistants and New Graduate student Orientation to Safety. When it comes to safety training, this group doesn’t waltz around. The morning session features TED training so new graduate students and TAs can get up-to-date in double time on their Safety Self Assessments and reel off their Laboratory Core and other basic on-line training.

The afternoon sessions really get safety into rhythm. Five modules are presented to smaller breakout groups in the round. Students learn the steps to safely jig around Gas Cylinders, Fire Extinguishers, Fume Hoods, Biosafety Cabinet and Spill Preparedness and Response. Students shuffle through these rounds of demonstrations and hands-on activities. A frank discussion of past accidents and unwanted lab incidents help prepare students to stay light on their feet as they navigate around potential hazards in research and teaching laboratories. The grand finale is a full demonstration of an emergency eyewash and safety shower operation.

Although TANGO to Safety is not Dancing with the Stars, this day of training hopefully prepares our incoming class of graduates to toe the line and be safe throughout their UCI careers.

Prevention is the key to stopping the spread of seasonal flu. Experts recommend washing hands or using hand sanitizer frequently; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth; covering the mouth when coughing or coughing into a sleeve; keeping a distance from people who are ill; and maintaining good health with rest, healthy eating, and exercise. Environmental Health & Safety encourages the campus community to visit http://flu.gov/ and learn the basics of flu prevention and what to do if you or others become ill.
Thank You to our Safety Partners - Fall 2010

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

Safety Act Rewards

**Microbiology & Molecular Genetics**
* Maria Linnert
  **Safe Act:** Reported traffic problems in the pedestrian plaza

* Milad Pezeshki
  **Safe Act:** No violations on Laboratory Safety Survey

**Office of Research—ULAR**
* Claire Lindsell
  **Safe Act:** Developed building evacuation procedures for researchers to follow when in the midst of live animal surgeries

**Parking & Transportation Services**
* Benny Barboza
  **Safe Act:** Reported motor oil running into the storm drain which prevented additional waste from entering the system

EH&S recently recognized and rewarded the following work units for the completion of Safety On Site Level 3! Each work unit was awarded Starbucks gift cards and a SOS item for their completion of the Hazard Assessment & Corrections Tool as well as EH&S required safety training and work unit specific training. For more information on the SOS program, visit: [www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/iipp/](http://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/iipp/).

**Department of Anatomy & Neurobiology Administration Office**

**Department of Pharmacology Administration Office**

**Ge Lab – Department of Physics and Anatomy**

**McWilliams Lab & Ritz Lab**
– Department of Physics and Anatomy

**Sassone-Corsi Lab**
– Department of Pharmacology

**Shi Lab**
– Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics

**Steele Lab**
– Department of Biological Chemistry

Training Can Avoid Costly Fines

A recent inspection of a UC campus by Cal/OSHA has resulted in fines in excess of $27,000. The violation that carried the most significant fine was for failing to train laboratory employees who work with “particularly hazardous substances including select carcinogens, reproductive toxins, and chemicals with a high degree of acute toxicity, and failing to establish Standard Operating Procedures for highly hazardous chemicals”. The campus was also cited for not providing training on the requirements for implementing protective measures in the laboratory specifically for not providing a flame resistant clothing or lab coat.

Each laboratory must review their operations, prepare SOPs, require the use of lab coats and other appropriate personal protective equipment and ensure that all researchers have read, signed, and understood the procedures.

If you require assistance, please contact your EH&S School Coordinator at [http://www.ehs.uci.edu/coord.html](http://www.ehs.uci.edu/coord.html) or our Campus Chemical Hygiene Officer, Rebecca Lally at rrlally@uci.edu or x4-5730.
DIY Plumbing and Electricity – the hidden costs

Everyone likes to save money. When electricity or plumbing are involved, please let the professionals do the work. Most of us would not try to fix the refrigeration unit or the building ventilation system, yet some of us think nothing about running water lines, gas delivery lines, or electrical cords like clothes lines through the lab.

John Tapia, the Supervisor for the campus Facilities Maintenance Plumbing shop, recommends all flexible tubing water lines be replaced every year. Every year, the campus experiences dozens of lab floods due to old flexible water lines oxidizing and failing, breaking at stress points, or slippage due to material sag. Some of these floods have cost the responsible labs thousands of dollars in damages, not to mention the inconvenience of a flood, loss of research time, and data.

Faulty electrical wiring always has the potential to cause a fire. Equipment supplied with electricity which first has to travel through extension cords has lower amperage delivered. The longer the extension cord, the harder your equipment has to work to draw the current needed. Sub-optimal current can shorten the life of your lab equipment, a very costly alternative to having an electrician install the outlets you need and optimizing their locations.

Finally, DIY gas delivery systems can be dangerous and costly. The campus plumbers are often asked to trouble shoot DIY gas delivery system, because the gas cylinders empty too quickly. This may only be a loss of product and money when an inert or innocuous gas is involved but more serious safety concerns must be considered when dealing with toxic, flammable or reactive gases, or gases being delivered through areas with low air exchange rates. A gas leak may go undetected due to high room air exchange rates required in labs until the next ventilation shutdown, new ventilation reduction for energy savings, or power outage. Please re-evaluate your DIY plumbing and electrical systems in your lab and, at least, have them checked out by a licensed trades worker. Estimates for professional electrical and plumbing work generally are provided at no cost by campus facilities management. Contact EH&S at x4-6200 to have the Safety Engineer or EH&S coordinator evaluate your DIY project.

What to do if Cal/OSHA Comes Knocking

On occasion a Cal/OSHA inspector may come to the Campus. The visit may be in response to a reported safety concern or in follow up to a workplace injury. Whatever the reason for the visit, be sure to follow these guidelines if Cal/OSHA comes knocking.

1. Immediately notify the Environmental Health & Safety Office at 824-6200.
2. EH&S will send a safety representative who will:
   - check the inspector’s credentials,
   - determine the reason for the visit,
   - answer any questions the inspector may have, and
   - escort the inspector around the Campus.
3. If the inspection involves an employee represented by a union, you may be asked to contact a Union representative. Union representatives are allowed to participate in the inspection.
4. The inspector may have an opening conference to outline what he wants to see and why. He may also want to inspect the premises, study records, review safety procedures, or interview employees.
5. If the inspection is the result of a complaint, the inspector will not disclose to you the person’s name. However, we will be told if the person is a current employee.

If you have any questions about Cal/OSHA inspections or procedures to follow if Cal/OSHA comes to your department, please contact the EH&S Office at 949-824-6200 or email us at safety@uci.edu.
Effective October 1, 2010, the Campus Emergency Management and the UC Ready Mission Continuity Program will be transferring to the Police Department. Staffing levels will remain the same as Linda Bogue and Kim Hau look forward to providing the same high level of customer service to all campus constituents. This will result in many benefits to the campus, including:

- To align the Emergency Management communication and coordination efforts within the 24 hour operations of the Police Department
- To provide for more effective campus wide training in National Incident Management System and related compliance activities
- To support implementation of the UC Ready business continuity program promoted by OP Risk Services

EH&S continues to work with PD and the campus community in areas of campus safety preparedness collaborations such as Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Emergency Response Team (ERT), and Emergency Communication Team (ECT).

Contacts for Linda and Kim remain unchanged at LBogue@uci.edu or x4 - 7147 for Linda and KHau@uci.edu or x4 - 9645 for Kim.

10 MOST REPEATED LAB SAFETY PROBLEMS

To help control hazards in the laboratories, EH&S inspects at a frequency determined by factors like hazard level, past safety performance, and accidents. In these inspections, EH&S researches if a problem occurred before in the lab. Listed below are UC Irvine’s top 10 most frequently repeated lab safety problems from the 1st half of 2010. As an SOS Individual Safety Activity Opportunity, self-check your lab to control these frequently repeated hazards, and place the record in SOS Binder.

1. Is housekeeping up-to-standards? (e.g. remove trip hazards, spilled chemical residuals, paper clutter on work surfaces and walls, stacked broken equipment and old, tattered, stained bench pads?) Y N
2. Has Work Unit completed all SOS levels? Y N
   Note: TED is moving to UCLC in winter 2010
3. Are tippable item more than 42” high seismically restrained? Y N
   If not, submit an Facilities Management Request (FMR) today to brace these items.
4. Heavy or hard items secured/or stored lower? Y N
   These are items that will seriously hurt you if they fall on you.
5. Are lab-specific SOPs for Particularly Hazardous Substances available? Y N
6. Is lab keeping CiBRTrac (ucirvine.ecompliance.net) up-to-date? Y N
   (ChemInnovations at Physical Sciences)
7. Are chemical waste containers appropriately labeled? Y N
   Labeling information at: www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/enviro/index.html
8. Are chemical wastes sent to EH&S within 6 months? Y N
9. Are biological safety cabinets certified annually or posted? “Caution: not certified for >BSL2 work” Y N
10. Are extension cords used only on a temporary basis? Install permanent outlets where needed. Y N

Lab Representative ___________________________ Date________________