

Laboratory Safety News



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Waller Creek Cleanup

Waller Creek is one of the most enjoyable spots on campus. Help us keep the creek clean by joining us for the next Waller Creek Cleanup! The spring event will take place April 16. Check the [EHS website](#) for any updates as we get closer to the event.



New EHS Program: Campus and Occupational Safety

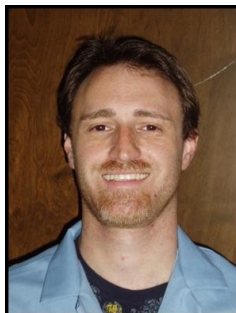
There is a new group in EHS, Campus & Occupational Safety. We will be focusing on campus and worker safety that is not currently covered by the Lab Safety or Radiation Safety programs within EHS. Some areas we will be focusing on immediately are: Asbestos, Lead, Indoor Air Quality, Ergonomics, Respiration Protection, and Accident/Incident Investigation. Other areas include chemical monitoring, respiratory protection, and noise. We will work with campus Safety Coordinators to ensure harmonization across all departments.

Our mission is to be a resource for all UT employees.



Elena Capsuto (above), Assistant Director, Campus and Occupational Safety. Ms. Capsuto has over fifteen years experience as an environmental, safety, and health professional. She holds a Master's of Science in Epidemiology from the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston. She is also a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager. Additional Campus and Occupational Safety Staff: Charlie Jamison, James Wichman, Fred Simmons.

Changes to the Radiation Safety Section



Chris Walters (left) is EHS' new Radiation Safety Manager. Chris holds a B.S. in Radiological Health Engineering. He has worked for the past six years in the nuclear pharmacy industry, and now looks forward to the challenges of servicing the needs of a large

university. He is the primary contact for the University's Dosimetry, Radioactive Waste, and Inspection programs.

If you have any questions about your radiation exposure, dosimeters, Landauer, radioactive material or x-ray use, contact Chris for assistance. As a reminder, all dosimetry requests must be made through EHS. Please do not contact Landauer directly.

EHS staff member **R. DeWayne Holcomb** (right) has been appointed to the new position of Laser Safety Manager. He will be responsible for implementing the University's Laser Safety program. He has been involved in laser safety since the late 1980s, when working at NASA and the University of California -



Berkley. He was also the Laser Safety Officer for Honeywell-Measurex in Cupertino, CA. DeWayne is a Certified Laser Safety Officer (CLSO) and holds a B.S. in Technology (Radiation Protection) from Excelsior College.

A laser safety evaluation is required for all Class 3B and Class 4 lasers. If your laser system has not been evaluated, please contact DeWayne to schedule a visit to your lab. Any laser safety questions or concerns you may have can be directed to DeWayne as well.



**NO PANTS
NO SHOES
NO SCIENCE**

Environmental Health & Safety | THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

This semester EHS is rolling out a campaign to reduce injuries due to shorts/sandals in labs: **NO PANTS, NO SHOES, NO SCIENCE**. If you would like a poster for your lab or want some for your building, contact EHS Lab Safety : EHS-Labstaff@austin.utexas.edu



Shorts and Sandals

It is that time of the year when it starts getting warm and researchers and students want to wear shorts and sandals in the lab. Shorts and sandals are not appropriate clothing in laboratories. EHS has seen a number of injuries that could have been less severe if the employees had been wearing pants and closed-toed shoes. If you want to wear shorts and sandals, keep some clothes at work that you can change into!



The result of an acid spill on feet while the victim was reportedly wearing flip-flops.

Laboratory Incidents in the News

Nitric acid exposure

A UT employee was exposed to nitric acid while preparing this chemical for disposal. The container broke and splashed acid on her arm. The employee was not wearing a lab coat, which would have reduced her exposure.

Cryogenic exposure

A UT employee was exposed to liquid nitrogen while refilling a dewar. Liquid nitrogen spilled onto the employee's gloves. The gloves were made of leather, which does not provide adequate protection from liquid nitrogen. Cryogenic gloves provide more protection.

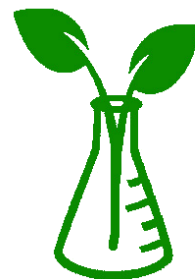
Lab Safety Tip: Create a Safety Scavenger Hunt for Employees

When orienting new employees to your lab or at your next staff meeting, consider developing a scavenger hunt for safety equipment. Having new employees physically locate the safety equipment is more memorable than reading about the location in your safety plans or talking about it during training. EHS has also developed guidance for orienting new employees as part of Site Specific Training (OH 102). Information can be found at:

http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/forms/lab_training_checklist_training_record.pdf

Green Laboratory Initiative

The Office of Sustainability is sponsoring the Green Laboratory Initiative. This voluntary program is designed to help researchers find ways to make your laboratory environmentally friendly and potentially save researchers and the University resources. If you are interested in participating in the program, contact Jim Walker at greenlabs@austin.utexas.edu.



EHS Assistant Web Interface Goes Live!

EHS would like to invite you to access its new web portal for laboratory safety, **EHS Assistant**. EHS Assistant is intended to improve lab safety while making it easier for researchers to interact with EHS. You can find the interface as well as a tutorial at: <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/lab/ehsassistant/>



Features include:

- **Lab Inspections**

These are now paperless. You will no longer have to mail or fax your inspection reports to EHS. You can log onto EHS Assistant and address any deficiencies online. You will also have the ability to see your past inspection history.

- **Training History**

You will be able to see the lab safety training history of your entire staff that are registered with EHS Assistant.

- **Chemical Inventories**

This information is used by emergency responders such as Austin Fire Department, UTPD and EHS for determining how to respond in an emergency. You will be able to review and modify your chemical inventory as needed. You can also use it to develop a shared chemical inventory for your department.

- **Delegation**

You will be able to delegate personnel in your lab to have access to the EHS Assistant web interface by submitting a request to ehs-labstaff@austin.utexas.edu Your delegates can access EHS Assistant to respond on your behalf.

- **Lab Registration**

You will be able to see which of your labs are registered with EHS, which personnel are registered and who your designated emergency contacts are.

- **Waste Pick-Up Requests (Coming Soon!)**

You will be able to submit waste pick-up requests online.

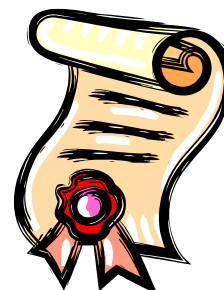
New Laboratory Safety Staff Member

Katherine (Katie) Hoey joined EHS as a Lab Safety Specialist this month. Katie has a Bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science and a Master's degree in Medicinal Chemistry. Katie has several years of laboratory experience between her work in a pharmaceutical research company and in two other private labs. She taught Organic Chemistry at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston. In her free time Katie likes hiking and taking her dog for a walk, going to concerts, and playing on a SkeeBall team.



EHS Staff Member Achievement

Congratulations to EHS staff member Matt Wenke! Matt recently passed the CHMM (Certified Hazardous Materials Manager) exam. The CHMM certification provides a nationally recognized standard for identifying professionals who have demonstrated knowledge and competence in hazardous materials management.





Environmental Health & Safety

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Environmental Health and Safety

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<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/>

Training News

Recently, two EHS lab safety classes went online: OH 207 (Biological Safety) and OH 218 (Blood borne Pathogens). Remember that OH 218 refresher training is required annually.

EHS is developing four new online classes for the spring:

- Laboratory Safety Refresher
- Dry Ice Shipping
- Compressed Gas Safety
- Cryogen Safety

If you are having difficulty accessing online classes or find that you are being redirected to an incorrect quiz at the end of the class please remember to *always* access our online training from the EHS training page website:

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/train/>



Safety Training Calendar

Online Training

The following classes are available online:

- ◆ OH 101 (General Hazard Communication)
- ◆ OH 201 (Lab Safety)
- ◆ OH 202 (Hazardous Waste Management)
- ◆ OH 304 (Laser Safety)
- ◆ OH 218 Bloodborne Pathogens
- ◆ OH 207 Biosafety

Presentation Classes

The following classes are available as presentation classes. Please register for these classes. Most classes are offered in ACES. Fire extinguisher training is taught outside near Speedway in front of WAG.

- ◆ OH 101 (General Hazard Communication)
- ◆ OH 207 (Biosafety)
- ◆ OH 218 (Bloodborne Pathogens)
- ◆ OH 301 (Basic Radiological Health)
- ◆ OH 302 (Basic Radiological Health Refresher)
- ◆ OH 306 (X-Ray Safety)
- ◆ FF 205 (Fire Extinguisher)

To access online training and to register for other training see the training page of the EHS website:

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/train/>

The following presentation classes are available in March, April, and May:

March

FF 205: 3/24 11:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
3/24 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

April

OH 302: 4/4 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
OH 301: 4/5 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
OH 218: 4/5 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
OH 306: 4/6 12:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
OH 207: 4/6 9:30 -11:30 a.m.
OH 101: 4/7 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
FF 205: 4/20 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
4/20 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May

OH 301: 5/2 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.
OH 306: 5/3 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
OH 302: 5/5 12:00 -1:30 p.m.