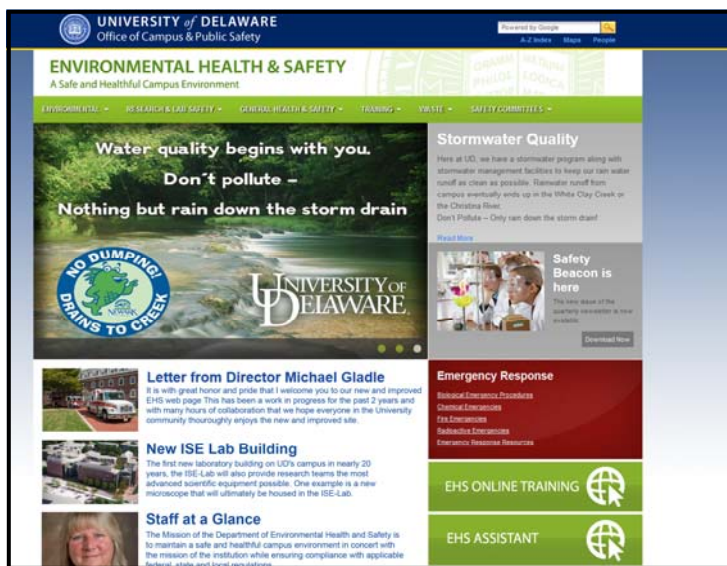


Safety Beacon

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

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EXTRA!! EXTRA!! EHS IS GOING TO HAVE A NEW WEBPAGE



EHS has been working to redesign our website. The Office of Communications and Marketing has worked with us to modernize the site and make it more user-friendly. Our goal is to place the items our customers use most often in easy-to-find locations, and to keep the website just 3-clicks deep. The most commonly used features will carry through to the deeper pages with you.

Look for the new pages to go live in January. Please let us know of any suggestions or comments you may have on the site when it's released. We hope this gives you, our customers, a better tool to provide you with the safety and regulatory information you need in order to do your job!

Tis the Season To be Fire Safe

As the colder winter months force us to take most of our activities indoors, the number of residential structure fires increases. According to the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), winter residential building fires account for approximately 945 deaths, 3,825 injuries, and \$1,708,000,000 in property loss each year. While cooking remains the leading cause of fires throughout the year, colder months bring a rise in fires caused by seasonal items such as electrical heaters, fireplaces, and candles.

With the winter season also comes the holiday season. Decorating your home is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, some of these decorations can also increase your chances of fire. Data from the National Fire Protection Association and the United States Fire Administration shows that an estimated 240 home fires involve Christmas trees and another 150 home fires involve holiday lights and other decorative lighting each year.

To help ensure that you have a fire-safe winter and holiday season, you can follow some simple fire safety tips:

Heating Your Home

Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heat source. Not only is it a fire hazard, it can also be a source of toxic fumes. If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords that are the same size or larger than the appliance's electrical cord. If you use a.....

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Inside this issue:	Chemical Fume Hood Training
EHS has a new web page	Old Aerosol Can and Battery Disposal
Tis the Season—Fire Safety	Stormwater 101
Student Theatre – Power Tool Safety	Chemical Inventory

Student Theatre Groups Receive Hand and Portable Power Tool Safety Training

For the second year in a row, students from the E-52 and HTAC theater groups rose early on a Saturday morning to attend a three hour program addressing safe use of hand and portable power tools. Over 80 students involved in the construction of sets and props participated in the program on October 6, 2012.

The training was presented by Keith Davis, supervisor of the Professional Theatre Training Program shop. The session covered topics such as choosing the correct tool, which personal protective equipment to wear, how to select the right size extension cord, and safe operation of powered tools.

Students actually used a powered chop saw to cut a piece of wood! To encourage proper use of personal protective equipment, DEHS supplied each student with a pair of safety glasses and a pair of ear plugs for noise attenuation.

The DEHS applauds the students' willingness to learn the safe use of tools and is indebted to Keith for giving up his Saturday morning and sharing his expertise.

This program is supported by the Student Organizations Department, the Risk Management Group and the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.



Chemical Fume Hood Training Reminder

Laboratory chemical fume hoods and ventilation equipment are designed for the protection of personnel by preventing contaminants such as vapors, dust, mist, and fumes from being released into the laboratory and building environment. EHS offers a one-hour Laboratory Ventilation Safety course which is recommended for all individuals who utilize chemical fume hoods or other laboratory ventilation units in a laboratory setting. The Laboratory Ventilation Safety Training covers the key concepts to work safely in a chemical fume hood and with specialized laboratory exhaust ventilation.

Remember, safety equipment is there to protect you, but it only works if you use it correctly!

Tis the season — To be Fire Safe (continued from page 1)

fireplace do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate the fire. Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out. Also keep flammable materials away from the fireplace and mantel; a spark from the fireplace can easily ignite these materials. Make sure that your fireplace/fire is out before you go to sleep and NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. Finally, have your chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary.

Candles

Make sure that candles are in stable holders and keep them where they cannot tip over easily. Try to keep them at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look and smell like real candles. NEVER leave a lit candle unattended, and NEVER put lit candles on a Christmas tree.



Christmas Trees

Keep your live Christmas tree watered at all times and try not to leave it up for longer than two weeks. Do not place your live OR artificial tree near a heat source. Also be careful not to block exits with your tree.

Holiday Lights

Be sure to inspect your holiday lights yearly for any frayed wires, broken or cracked sockets, excessive kinking or excessive wear before you put them up. Only use lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Do not link more than three light strands unless the directions indicate that it is safe to do so. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.

Following these simple tips can keep you, your family, and your guests safe. As in every season, be sure to have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home. Test them monthly and replace the batteries twice a year (and when needed). Know when and how to call for help, and remember to discuss and practice your home escape plan with your loved ones.

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy, and fire-safe winter and holiday season!

How Do I Properly Dispose of Those Old Aerosol Cans and Batteries?

Many of us don't think too much about the common household chemical wastes we produce on a daily basis. Here are some tips on how to properly dispose of them:



From hair spray to household cleaners, bug repellants to paint, many of our most commonly used products come in aerosol cans. Because they are so common, however, we may think that it's okay to throw these cans in the trash once they're empty. Or some people may toss them into a recycling bin thinking that they're being environmentally conscious. The truth is aerosol cans must be disposed of as chemical waste. All aerosol cans are pressurized and contain a propellant which is flammable. Depending on what the product is, there may be even more hazards present. EPA regulations state that *even if the cans are empty*, they must be punctured and drained of their contents before they can be deemed safe for recycling. For safety reasons, however, this is something we *don't* recommend you try yourself. So what should you do with them? (continued on page 4)

How to Properly Dispose of Those Old Aerosol Cans and Batteries (continued from page 3)

Batteries are great when you need a portable, convenient power source. Whether they're starting your car in the morning, or keeping your flashlight lit during a power outage, we use many different types of batteries to power our everyday lives. But what happens when they run out of juice? Many of us may think that it's okay to throw them in the trash, but that's not the case. Batteries contain heavy metals such as mercury, lead, cadmium, and nickel, which can contaminate the environment when batteries are improperly disposed. But how do you know which type of battery you have? Or what if you don't want to lug that old car battery to Pep Boys for disposal?

There are several options for disposing of empty aerosol cans and old batteries. To dispose of empty aerosol cans around your house, the Delaware Solid Waste Authority sponsors special collection events several times each year at different locations around the state. Similar programs are offered in neighboring states. Used household batteries can be disposed in yellow recycling bins at your local recycling drop-off center.

What about aerosol cans and batteries generated at the University? That's where UD's EHS Department comes in! If you have any aerosol cans (full or empty) or dead batteries (any type) that you'd like to dispose of, you can simply go to our website at www.udel.edu/ehs or call us at x8475, schedule a chemical waste pick-up, and we'll come to you! It's easy, it's safe, and it's good for the environment!

Delaware Solid Waste Authority
Household Waste Collection Dates and Locations
http://www.dswa.com/HHWschedule_print.asp



Stormwater 101

In a natural setting, rain and melting snow soaks through the ground surface and seeps down through subsurface layers of soil and rock to replenish the groundwater supply, which is the main source of drinking water for many people. Impervious surface areas such as roads, parking lots and building rooftops reduce the amount of land available to absorb rain and snowmelt, causing a reduction in the amount of water available to recharge groundwater resources and feed surface streams. Low groundwater levels may cause wells to run dry and reduce stream flow during periods of dry weather.

In the past decade, droughts have increased in frequency and severity. While drought is typically associated with lack of rainfall, its effects are compounded when the groundwater supply is already low. In order to meet water demands of growing populations, water utilities may need to resort to very expensive alternatives to ground water supply. Drinking water in the Newark area comes from a combination of groundwater and water from the White Clay Creek.

Local governments have the most influence on groundwater supply through their authority to regulate land use. A stormwater management strategy that prioritizes infiltrating runoff into the ground to recharge the groundwater supply will help alleviate water supply shortages, both above and below the surface.

The University of Delaware has been constructing new buildings and has created more impervious surface. The good news is that the University and the City of Newark have established stormwater management areas on campus so water can infiltrate into the ground to recharge our groundwater reserves.

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Bio retention area near the Bob Carpenter Center



Bio retention area near the East Campus Utility Plant

Stormwater 101 (continued from page 4)

Areas on campus that look like landscaping may actually be rain gardens, bio-filtration areas, or wetlands. These areas hold the stormwater runoff for a period of time and allow the rain water to slowly infiltrate the soil to reach the groundwater layers. The strategy is supplanting the traditional method of directly piping stormwater underground to the nearest stream. This method is no longer preferred as it causes high flow stream conditions which cause stream bank erosion. This in turn, causes problems for fish and underwater vegetation, affecting the health of the stream.

So, when you walk around campus enjoying the beauty of our UD landscaping, think about the ways in which we are managing our stormwater to reduce runoff, recharge the groundwater, and create cleaner water for the flora and fauna in the stream as well as for ourselves!



Bio retention area near the Bob Carpenter Center Addition

It's Workplace Chemical Inventory Time

Federal and state regulations require an annual inventory of hazardous chemicals stored on University property. This information is used by local agencies to plan for emergency responses.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety is requesting the assistance of the University's safety committees with this inventory. Safety committee chairs will be receiving survey forms this month; the Department is asking the committees to review their chemical inventories and respond by February 1, 2013. This information will be compiled into the University database which must be submitted to the State of Delaware.

Any questions about the Workplace Chemical Inventory can be addressed to Bill Harris at 831-8274.

