

# Safety Beacon

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

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## Guess Who is Retiring and Going Fishing?



EHS’s very own, Joe Miller!!! An employee of 33 years, Joe has seen the department grow tremendously in responsibilities and size. “When I started work here, the department had 6 staff members and occupied the basement of a small house next to the Perkins Center”, says Miller. Now we have a staff of approximately 20 and are located in the General Services Building.

Joe has been the Assistant Director for the department in excess of 20 years and has assisted the University through a number of serious incidents including a major science building fire, the anthrax scare, a major chemical spill in the Christiana Towers, the H1N1 flu outbreak, major mold remediation work in the dormitories, as well as many other projects throughout the campus. He has been instrumental in representing the University in a professional and compassionate manner when developing solutions to environmental health and safety matters relating to the UD community and thus, ensuring a successful outcome.

The University owes a great deal of gratitude to Joe for his many years of service protecting its employees from harm. His vast experience, broad knowledge, and friendly nature will certainly be missed. We wish Joe and his family health and happiness in his retirement which begins May 31, 2013. Happy Fishing!

## Have Samples to Ship?



EHS performs shipping for hazardous materials which includes chemical, biological, or radioactive materials.

In order to ship hazardous materials a DOT Shipping Request Form must be completed. A copy of the form is available on our website. Please allow at least one week for us to review the shipment and ensure we have the proper packaging materials and documentation in place.

If the materials are not hazardous, we will provide recommendations on packaging the materials to get them to their destination safely and without delay. If the package contains hazardous materials, we will make arrangements with the lab to pick up the samples and ship them.

Following proper shipping procedures is important as fines may be issued if regulated materials are shipped improperly, and your shipment may be rejected if it is not properly prepared. If a shipment is going to an international destination, a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) must be completed prior to shipping; an MTA should be prepared for domestic shipments as well if they are being sent to a collaborator or another researcher. Information on the MTA process is available through the Research Office or their website.

For questions regarding chemical shipments, contact Jane Frank at janejf@udel.edu or 302-831-2103. For biological shipments, contact Krista Murray at klmurray@udel.edu or 302-831-1433.

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## HAZWOPER Emergency Response Training



In January, EHS in collaboration with the Geology Department resurrected the 40-hr Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training course. HAZWOPER certification is required for the handling, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste, responding to emergencies and investigating brownfield sites. The purpose of the collaborative effort was to provide a venue, primarily for UD students, for training/certification which would better position them for employment opportunities in the environmental arena. The course was also made available to the Delaware community to become trained.

Nineteen people attended the class that incorporated UD undergraduate students, staff members and representatives from Delaware State Agencies. A wide array of topics were covered in the classroom and then incorporated into hands-on activities. This newly attained knowledge was further put to use by two simulated spill events which the class had to respond and mitigate. Special thanks to Shipping and Receiving for making special accommodations for the simulations to occur in their space.

Given the success of the initial course offering it is anticipated the course will be offered again next winter. In addition, an 8-hr refresher class for those seeking re-certification will be offered as well. Should you have any questions or have an interest in attending the course next year please contact Mike Gladle at X1435 or Jim Pizzuto (Interim Chair for Geology, x2710).



### PPE and Pictures

EHS reminds the University Community that proper personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn whenever photographs are taken in a lab or other setting which would require PPE. This includes safety glasses in particular. If the photo is set in a lab, all occupants must wear safety glasses and any other PPE required for the lab. If prescription glasses are worn they must be ANSI approved with side shields, or additional safety glasses are needed.

If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact EHS.

**COMING SOON: Confined Space Training**

Check our website for more details: [www.udel.edu/ehs](http://www.udel.edu/ehs)

## April 27<sup>th</sup> is Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Medicines play an important role in treating certain health conditions and diseases, but they must be disposed of with care to avoid harming the environment. So how do you get rid of expired or no longer needed medicines? Do not flush medications down the toilet or throw medications away in the garbage. Instead, take advantage of pharmaceutical "take-back" programs sponsored by the Delaware Division of Public Health. The next take-back day is scheduled for April 27th at several locations throughout the state.

Controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter medications will be collected. Liquid products and creams in their containers will be accepted. Sharps and syringes will not be accepted due to the potential hazard posed by bloodborne pathogens.

This program is absolutely anonymous and all efforts will be made to protect the anonymity of individuals disposing of medications. No questions or requests for identification will be made by law enforcement personnel present. Participants will remove any personal information from bottles or packages that contain pills/capsules and liquids and place the bottles or packages into the disposal box.

Collection locations will be announced early in April; check your newspaper or go to <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/hsp/hdrugtakeback.html> for times and locations.



## April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month



The National Safety Council has designated April as "Distracted Driving Awareness" month. Cell phone use is one of the leading causes of driver distraction. Did you know that:

- Drivers using cell phones are four times as likely to crash and there is no difference in crash risk between handheld and hands-free phone use.
- At any given moment, there are far more drivers using cell phones than there are drivers distracted by other risky activities (such as reaching into the back seat). About 9% of all drivers are talking on cell phones at any given daylight moment, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- More than 2 in 3 drivers reported talking on their cell phone while driving in the past month, and nearly 1 in 3 said they do so fairly often or regularly according to the AAA Foundation 2011 Traffic Safety Culture Index.

Cell phone use may not be the most dangerous distraction, but when you combine the risk (the likelihood of a crash) with the frequency (how often drivers are doing the behavior) and prevalence, the reason for putting an end to this deadly behavior becomes clear.

The National Safety Council is offering a webinar on April 10th at 11:00 am to discuss "The Myth of Multitasking". You can register for the webinar at: <http://preview.tinyurl.com/a25mxo8>. For more information about Distracted Driving Awareness Month, check out <http://preview.tinyurl.com/dyom8el>.