



Safety BEACON

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UD Recognized as a HEARTSafe Campus

The University of Delaware is one of eight university campuses to be awarded the HEARTSafe Campus designation by the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMSF) this year. UD's designation was announced at the foundation's 22nd annual conference in Baltimore.



Launched in 2013, the HEARTSafe Campus designation was developed to encourage and promote community awareness of the potential for saving lives with effective CPR and early defibrillation.

HEARTSafe Campuses promote and support:

- Rapid response by CPR and AED trained first responders
- Rapid public access to defibrillation
- Early access to advanced care
- Public CPR and AED training for the community
- Engagement in preventative cardiovascular healthcare activities.

To qualify for the award, UD completed and submitted a rigorous self-assessment and verification packet and fulfilled all required criteria to improve the chances that anyone suffering a sudden cardiac arrest will have the best possible chance for survival. The submission was a joint initiative involving the University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit (UDECU), UD's Department of Environmental Health and Safety, the UD Police Department, New Castle County Emergency Medical Services and UD's School of Nursing.

Additional information about the HEARTSafe Campus program can be found at:
<https://www.ncemsf.org/programs/heartsafe-campus>

Kevin McSweeney receives National Recognition



Our very own Kevin McSweeney, Fire Marshal, recently received the American College Personnel Association's Commission for Housing and Residential Life Excellence in Service Award.

Kevin was nominated by the University of Delaware's Office of Residence Life. The award recognizes the work of non-Residence Life and Housing staff members whose contributions to the campus improve the lives and safety of students. Kevin is a proponent of fire safety in our residence halls and strives to keep our students safe while on our campus. He has developed a number of ways to provide fire safety training, through our NIFAST safety training, live training sessions, and hands-on fire extinguisher trainings.

He has volunteered to staff tables at student activity fairs to get both fire and personal safety messages out to our community. One of his most outstanding activities is the annual RA Training session held before school starts every year. Kevin and his staff coordinate within the university, local fire department, and the Delaware State Fire School to provide an interactive, hands-on training for the RA's. They get to go through a smoke-filled residence hall, try putting out a stove fire, and use fire extinguishers. The students seem to have a great time, but still remember the lessons learned and look forward to the night each year.

In these ways and many more, Kevin has shown his dedication to the university community and Residence Life & Housing in particular. **Congratulations Kevin!**

Safety Poster Contest

Time to put your creative skills to work to improve campus safety!

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety announces the second annual safety poster contest. All safety committees are encouraged to submit an original poster focusing on a safety topic important to the University community.

Submissions are due by May 27th and the winning posters will be unveiled at the Safety Committee gathering on June 3rd.



2014 First Place Safety Poster

Thanks for the Years of Hard Work

The University of Delaware Chemical Hygiene Committee honored George Whitmyre for his service on the committee at the April meeting. George, the Chemical & Biomedical Engineering Lab Manager, is a longtime member of the committee who will retire in June. Throughout his career he has been a staunch advocate for safety in the laboratory. Best wishes for a happy retirement!



Save the Date

EHS Safety Committee Gathering

The annual EHS Safety Committee Gathering, which features the presentation of this year's Bernie Alexander Fire Safety Award, will be held on June 16th from 2 to 4 PM in the General Services Building Conference Room.

Invitations will be issued soon and details of the gathering, including the photos of the Bernie Alexander Award and Safety Poster winners, will be published in the next Safety Beacon!



The Simple Way to Recycle Your Empty Toner Cartridges

Empty toner cartridges should not be placed in the blue recycling bins as they are difficult to breakdown into their various reusable components.

When you are done with your cartridges, simply give them to your W.B. Mason delivery person who will make sure it is processed for reuse.



Summertime and the Breathing Isn't Easy

Trouble breathing on a hot, summer day?

Feeling an irritating burning sensation in the back of your throat?

Are your eyes dry and itching?

No, this isn't seasonal allergies affecting you. It's actually your body's reaction to the chemical ozone.

Ground-level ozone is generated when sunlight reacts with nitrogen oxide (NOX) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) near the earth's surface.

While ground-level ozone might be irritating to most people, in severe cases it can prove life-threatening to young children, the elderly, and those suffering from lung diseases such as asthma.

Local and federal government agencies have developed plans and regulations to reduce the amount of NOX and VOCs in the atmosphere and there are several things individuals can do to reduce the amount of ground-level ozone.

- 1. Minimize automobile travel.** NOX is created during combustion of all types of fuel and cars and trucks are one of the leading sources of NOX in Delaware's air. Reducing unnecessary car trips, especially during summer days, will reduce the amount of NOX generated and thus reduce the amount of ozone created.
- 2. Don't top off your gas tank.** Modern automobile fuel systems are designed to reduce or even eliminate the release of gasoline vapors. Topping off the gas tank bypasses these systems and pollutes the air.
- 3. Use proper containers to dispose of solvents in the lab and the workspace.** Organic solvents quickly evaporate and react with NOX to create ozone. In order to minimize their evaporation, used solvents and solvent-impregnated wipes must be placed in closed containers.
- 4. Select non-VOC-containing products.** Select consumer products that use alternatives to volatile organic compounds: water-based instead of oil-based paints and stains; "green" cleaning supplies; pumps instead of aerosol sprays.
- 5. Turn up the thermostat on hot days.** Most of the electricity in Delaware comes from fossil-fuel burning power plants. Even cleaner burning technologies, like natural gas boilers, still emit large quantities of NOX. Reducing your electrical demand reduces the amount of NOX released into the air.



EHS Presents at NCEMSF Conference

On March 1, 2015, Arman Fardanesh and Krista Murray made a presentation to the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation 22nd Annual Conference in Baltimore.

The conference is focused on the development of emergency medical responders on college and university campuses. Ninety-nine universities were registered, with over 1,000 participants from throughout the US.

Arman and Krista's presentation, "A Bad Day at the Lab: Responding to Campus Lab Emergencies," examined the special hazards associated with responding to medical emergencies in a lab, and how to handle lab exposure situations.

Thumbs up to Arman and Krista for sharing their knowledge and experience with other campuses!



Laboratory Safety Alert - Nitric Acid

There have been several reports of explosions in laboratories at other universities caused by strong acids being mixed with solvents. A recent incident involved nitric acid placed in a reused plastic solvent bottle.

Nitric acid in a greater than 50% concentration will degrade and react with certain plastics (LDPE, HDPE), which further aggravated the incident. PTFE is a safer choice.

As with any strong corrosive waste stream you need to make sure you use a self-venting container or it can build up excessive pressure and explode.

A video available online titled "Ethanol Plus Nitric Acid – Spontaneous Reaction" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFwiZYfEsuY>) shows what happens when the two are mixed. If you watch the video you will see it takes several minutes before there is any indication of a reaction; plenty of time for the researcher to seal the container tightly, allowing pressure buildup and eventual catastrophic failure.

The University of Delaware does not allow labs to reuse chemical bottles for chemical waste in part because of the danger of cross contamination. Make sure you store your corrosive waste streams in a self-venting container to prevent gas build up.



New Ways to Register for EHS Training Sessions



ConnectingU is the new University program for managing professional development training records for employees. Through ConnectingU, you can sign up for training classes and manage your training records.

With the introduction of ConnectingU, EHS has changed the registration process for its live training sessions. The old LearnIT has been removed from service and any full-time or part-time employee with UD benefits can now sign up for training by accessing ConnectingU via CAS logon.

At this time, ConnectingU is *only* available to employees receiving UD benefits. Any non-benefitted employees (including some part-time personnel, all miscellaneous wage and S-contract employees), as well as undergraduate and graduate students who want to sign up for EHS training, will need to go to our Training webpage (<http://www.udel.edu/ehs/training/safety-education-schedule.html>), where a listing of our upcoming training sessions is available.

The Training webpage lists current courses; you can sign up for one of them by either sending an email to dehsafety@udel.edu or calling 302-831-8475. A confirmation email will only be sent after someone registers for a live training session.

EHS Assistant and our online training program are not changing at this point- it's still business as usual. You can still log in and take the online trainings at <https://assistant.ehs.udel.edu/ehstrn/ehstrainwebisapi.dll> just as you always have.

If you have any questions regarding EHS training opportunities, please feel free to contact us at dehsafety@udel.edu or 302-831-8475.

Lawn Care Tips to Protect and Preserve Our Streams

1. Test your soil to see if fertilizer is even necessary for your lawn.
If so, apply fertilizers sparingly and never before it rains.

2. Use natural pesticides and herbicides on your lawn, but only if they are needed.

3. Plant vegetation on the bare spots in your yard so exposed soils won't runoff into streams during storms, which leads to silting and causes problems for fish and aquatic plants.

4. Native plants, shrubs, and trees reduce more stormwater runoff than a grass lawn.
Consider reducing the size of your lawn by introducing other native plantings. The air will like it too!

5. If you live next to a creek or water body, plant a vegetative buffer along the water's edge to help trap fertilizers, herbicides, and sediment and prevent them from entering the creek when it rains.

6. If you live near a storm drain, clean it regularly to keep leaves, trash, and debris from going down into the storm drain.

7. Don't bag grass clippings; keep them on the lawn. Use a mulching mower and naturally fertilize your lawn in the process.

