



# Safety BEACON

www.udel.edu/ehs  
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## Hover Boards

### *Hoverboards banned on UD Campus*



A Hover board being operated on a city sidewalk.



A Hover board that had caught fire while charging.

Due to the high potential for fire incidents associated with Hover boards, The University of Delaware has banned the use, storage and charging of these devices on its campus, effective immediately.

UD Safety Protocol (GH&S -1) regarding Scooters and like devices has been updated to include the banning of Hover Boards.

A collaborative effort on the part of the University was made to address this serious issue and take this measure to prevent UD from being added to the list of Hover Board fire locations.

Please contact Kevin McSweeney, UD Fire Marshal for more information [kmcsween@udel.edu](mailto:kmcsween@udel.edu).

## EHS Annual Emergency Response Exercise

### *EHS practices a real life scenario*

On October 19th, 2015 EHS employees performed an emergency response exercise on site at our Material Management Facility (MMF).

The exercise included responding to an EHS employee becoming unconscious due to a chemical exposure during the weekly waste consolidation process.

EHS staff went through the process of responding to this emergency call. This included donning and doffing level A personal protective equipment, setting up and breaking down a two stage decontamination, recovering the unconscious subject, investigating the incident site, testing the spill to identify its chemical characteristics, and cleaning up the spill.

The exercise was a complete success!

EHS had several specialists (with a wide variety of experiences and skill sets) come together to work as one cohesive unit to complete the exercise and respond in a timely manner.

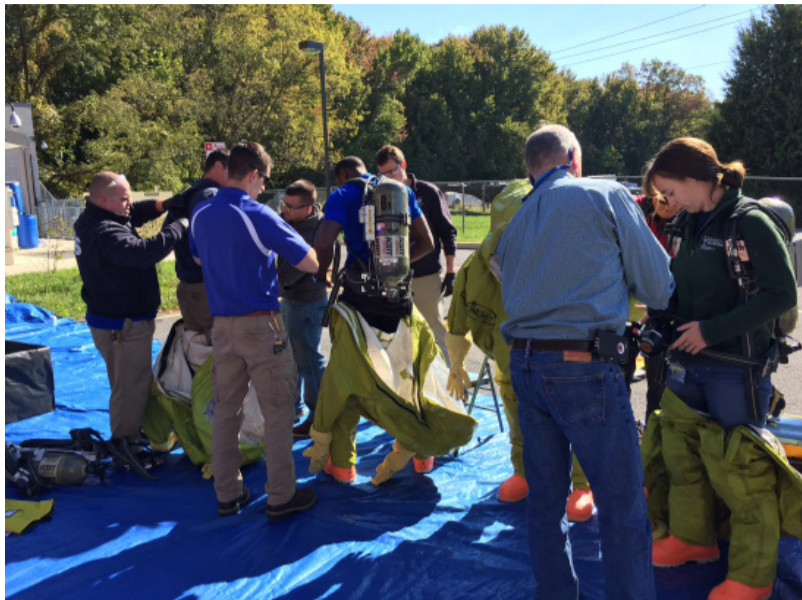
EHS has concluded that it needs to continue its training with emergency response exercises in order to be efficient and safe at the time of a real emergency. With the proper equipment, training, and communication UD EHS can better serve the campus population in the pursuit of safety and further learning.

*(Pictures from this exercise can be found on page 2.)*



# EHS Hazwoper Training Pictures

October 19th, 2015



EHS team members are suited up to enter the building.



EHS team members are decontaminated immediately after exiting the building.



Chris Niles, an EHS Technician, is almost ready to enter the building in his Level A suit.



EHS employees bulking bottles of hazardous waste



Jen Pyle is all smiles in her decontamination suit!



## Coming Soon...BioRaft Program

*We are replacing EHS Assistant*

The University recently purchased three lab management software modules (lab equipment, inspections, and training) through BioRaft.

Over the course of 2016, the noted modules will become active. The equipment module will be the first to be activated, followed by the on-line training module. The training program will be easier to access and provide features such as the ability to stop the training, come back at a later time, and resume at the point where the program stopped in lieu of having to restart at the beginning.

Additionally, the program will allow better access to training records. The lab inspection module will be the last module to be activated and will enhance the ability to issue lab inspection reports, and for researchers to respond with corrective actions taken. EHS will also be able to send out important announcements using the system.

**More information about this new program will be forthcoming!**

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## EHS Comings and Goings

*2016 Staffing Updates*

EHS Specialist Elizabeth Cunningham left the University in November. She has taken a Lab Management position with Janssen Pharmaceuticals. We wish her the best of luck!

EHS recently hired two new Miscellaneous Wage employees. Brandon Looby and Claire Paddock. Brandon and Claire will be working for our Fire Program as well as helping out the department with various jobs relating to AED inspections, fire extinguisher training and building inspections.

Brandon graduated from the University of Delaware in 2015. He has a BA in International Relations.

Claire is a sophomore BME undergraduate student here at the University.

Please join us in welcoming our new employees!

## Autoclave Incident Caught on Camera

*Written by Bob Pekala, DBI*



(Above) Steam release from DBI Autoclave incident

On Thursday, November 5, 2015 at the Delaware Biotechnology Institute we experienced a sudden steam leak from one of our four autoclaves that have electrically heated steam boilers.

No one was present in the room at the time of the incident. We have a motion activated video camera in the room which captured the incident.

Following the incident, we did an investigation with the help of the company that inspects and services our autoclaves.

The results of the investigation indicated that an electrical relay, which provides power to the heating coils in the steam boiler, failed. The failure welded the contacts in a closed position allowing a continuous flow of power to the heating coils. This caused a build up of steam pressure causing the gasket on one of the heating coils to fail and explosively release steam into the room. The gasket failed at a lower pressure than the set pressure of the relief valve.

While the steam quickly loses heat as it decompresses, there is still risk of injury.

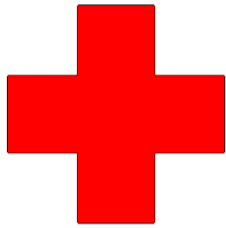
Even though the autoclaves are inspected and maintained, there is always the possibility of mechanical failure. It is very important that people who operate the autoclaves, or who work in those spaces, be trained and wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Safety glasses, lab coats, no shorts or skirts, and no open shoes or flip flops are required in lab operations.

## First Aid Kit Pricing Update

*EHS has changed the vendor we use for purchasing First Aid Kits*

The price has now been lowered from \$45.00 to \$30.00.

You can purchase a new First Aid Kit for your department or office through Webforms Request for Service- Environmental Health & Safety.



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## Heating Safety

*As winter sweeps in, remember the importance of fire safety!*

The NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) reports that half of all heating related fires occur during the months of December, January & February.

- 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 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.
- 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.



## Eyewash News!

*OSHA Highlights Eyewash Contamination Potential*

In a recent news release, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration reminded the public to regularly flush eyewash equipment.

Stagnant water in the plumbing of eyewash stations is an ideal breeding ground for several organisms that are known to cause infections. Workers using eyewash stations after exposure to chemicals may have injuries that make them more susceptible to these infections.

Therefore, after using an eyewash station to flush chemicals from the eyes, it is important for the exposed person to monitor their eyes not only for physical damage but also for early signs of infection.

Most eyewash equipment manufacturers recommend that the eyewash stations be operated at least once per week for several minutes to flush out any organisms or other material that may accumulate in the eyewash plumbing.

Weekly flushes are also a good opportunity to check the overall operation of the eyewash station. If your eyewash station drain is not directly piped to a drain line, a 5 gallon bucket can be placed under the eyewash to collect the water discharge.



Standard eyewash station being used.



# Consolidated Waste on Campus

Did you know our EHS Waste Program collects, sorts and disposes anywhere from 100 to 180 containers of waste each week?

That is about 5,000 to 9,000 different types of waste solutions consolidated each year.

It is extremely important that you label and seal each bottle or container of waste being disposed of properly. It only takes one mis-labeled container to result in an exposure, incident, or accident.



**CHEMICAL / HAZARDOUS WASTE FOR DISPOSAL**

Lab Group/Department: Chemistry

Contact Person: Mike Wayack Date: 6-26-12

Bldg: Dupont Room #: 120

Telephone #: 8288

Circle the appropriate waste stream for this container:  
 Acid  Aqueous  Caustic  Reagent  Solvent  
Lab Trash Other: \_\_\_\_\_

CHEMICAL <small>List all chemicals, including water. Use only common chemical names. No notations.</small>	QUANTITY <small>% of total or actual volume</small>
<u>hydrochloric acid</u>	<u>40%</u>
<u>nitric acid</u>	<u>40%</u>
<u>water</u>	<u>20%</u>

For Hazard Communication: CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Flammable  Corrosive  Poison  
 Oxidizer  Reactive  Carcinogen

I certify that the above information is correct. I understand that there are penalties under law for false certification of hazardous waste.

Request a waste pick-up at:  
<http://www.udel.edu/EHS/wastepickup.html> or 831-8475

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR DIRECTIONS

Date moved to Central Accumulation: \_\_\_\_\_

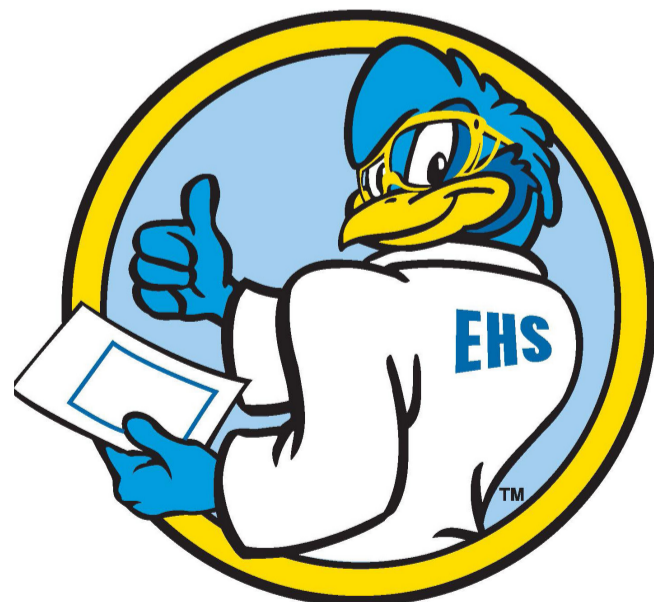
For more information on proper hazardous/chemical waste disposal, please contact our department at [dehsafety@udel.edu](mailto:dehsafety@udel.edu) or email Brian Miani at [brianjm@udel.edu](mailto:brianjm@udel.edu).

## EHS would like to hear from you!

We encourage all members of the UD community to submit safety improvement ideas on campus.

You may submit ideas that impact your personal safety here on campus or the safety of the greater community.

Your participation will help raise safety awareness in our community!



Please submit your safety concerns/ideas via email to [dehsafety@UDel.Edu](mailto:dehsafety@UDel.Edu).