

Environmental Health & Safety

Safety BEACON

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Spring Break, Studying Abroad and Fire Safety



The EHS Fire Safety Team continues to provide focused awareness regarding the safety of our students during Spring Break and when traveling overseas to study abroad. Each of these can be great life experiences.

Spring Break Tips

Each year, thousands of students venture away from campus during spring break to get away and enjoy themselves from the rigors of studying. Having a plan of where you'll be staying is an important step to assure a safe and successful time. Here are some tips to consider:

- Hotels, motels and commercial sleeping locations should have, at the very least, working smoke alarms. All exit doors need to provide security for your belongings, but function properly in the event of an emergency. All the better if the building is sprinkler protected and has fire extinguishers nearby. Carbon Monoxide alarms should be provided when gas/fuel-fired heating or hot water heaters are used.
- Stairs and handrails are secure to prevent tripping and falling.
- If cooking, stand by your meal to prevent an unattended cooking fire.
- Smoking and use of candles need extra precautions to ensure no candle is left unattended and all smoking materials are wet down and placed in a metal container.
- Responsible alcohol consumption is a must. Careless can result in accidental fires.
- Be mindful of overcrowding when frequenting night clubs and gatherings. Always know your exit choices and leave if the event is becoming uncomfortable.

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Fire Safety When Studying Abroad

It's always exciting to travel overseas, especially when taking courses in overseas lands. Our students and mentors should always be aware of the fire safety features of the buildings they'll be residing in. Many of us take for granted that hotels, motels, lodges and homes have common fire safety features that they have here in the U.S. An organization called The Jasmine Jahanshahi Fire Safety Foundation was created by the family and friends of Jasmine Jahanshahi who, in April 2011, was involved in a residential fire in Paris which took the lives of four exchange students and seriously injured dozens more. The apartment building was not equipped with smoke alarms or fire escapes, offering little warning to those inside.

The link to this very worthwhile organization can be found here: <http://www.firesafetyfoundation.org/> Please consider visiting the site to see how to bring smoke alarms and other fire safety features with you in the event the host location is lacking these items.

The Youtube link is also a quick tour of the organization, <https://youtube/BcAwEiYyiH8>.

For more information, contact Kevin McSweeney, Campus Fire Marshal kmcsween@udel.edu.

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Bill Fendt

Radiation & Laser
Safety Officer

After almost 35 years working
in EHS, Bill Fendt has retired.

We hope he has the best time
enjoying his retirement. Thank
you for your many years of
service to EHS and the
University of Delaware.

Congratulations Bill!



Streamlining Waste Management

The University's transition to a single waste disposal tag

Streamlining Waste Management: The University's Transition to a Single Waste Disposal Tag

In a move towards enhancing operational efficiency and reducing confusion, the University of Delaware's Environmental Health and Safety Department has announced that all campuses will move towards utilizing the new waste disposal tag. This new tag comes with enhanced wording for clarification of requirements, GHS pictograms for properly conveying "right to know" information required by OSHA, and pronounced areas for ensuring compliance by the generators.

Closer Look

EHS is pleased to introduce a single, comprehensive waste disposal tag designed to cover all types of hazardous materials regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control. This tag simplifies the labelling process by providing clear, straightforward instructions for waste categorization, it simplifies conveying the characteristic, physical, and health hazards, and ensures proper identification of the point of generation as well as alerting downstream handlers of all the constituents.

Benefits and Impact

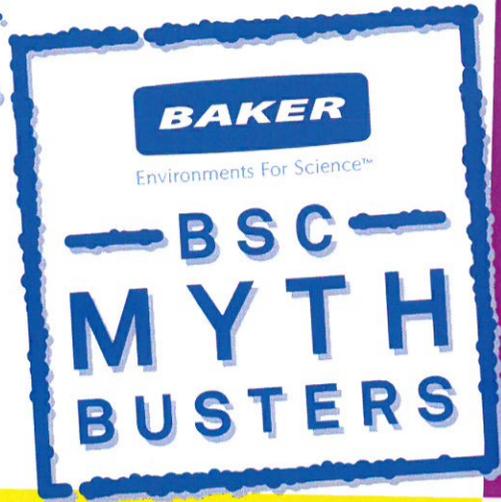
The transition to a single waste disposal tag is poised to offer numerous benefits, not only streamlining internal processes but also reinforcing the university's commitment to environmental stewardship. By simplifying the waste management process, the University will reduce the risk of negative environmental impact, continually foster a culture of safety and environmental responsibility among students and staff, all while maintaining high levels of compliance.

Looking Forward

Along with the added benefits of a harmonized disposal tag stated above, enhanced training for all EHS Chemical waste customers is right around the corner. The days of PowerPoint based training are slowly fading away, and a fresh take on waste training should allow EHS to connect and have a tremendous impact on all our stakeholders.

For any questions regarding the new waste disposal tag, please contact EHS at dehsafety@udel.edu.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Tag				
ALL SECTIONS REQUIRED – More Information on Back				
SEC 1	Start Date: _____	Date Moved to CAA _____		
	Building: _____			
	Room #: _____			
	Lab Group/Dept: _____			
	Contact Person: _____			
	Telephone #: _____			
SEC 2	SAA ID : _____	<input type="checkbox"/> SAA Not Assigned		
SEC 3	Specific Hazards (check all that apply, <u>must check one</u>):			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ignitable	<input type="checkbox"/> Corrosive <input type="checkbox"/> Reactive <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic		
SEC 4	Health & Physical Hazards (check all that apply, <u>must check one</u>):			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEC 5	CHEMICAL	QUANTITY		
	List ALL chemicals, including water. Use only common names. No notations.	TRACE QTY	% of total or actual volume.	
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
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	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	



Heat sources in a Biosafety Cabinet Compromise Experimental and User Protection



Also, it has been said that this practice could lead to a loss of BSC Containment, as flames require flammable gasses and cause hot air to rise.

We decided to put these practices to the test!



Keeping a contamination free environment in the laboratory has commonly been achieved by one of two ways:

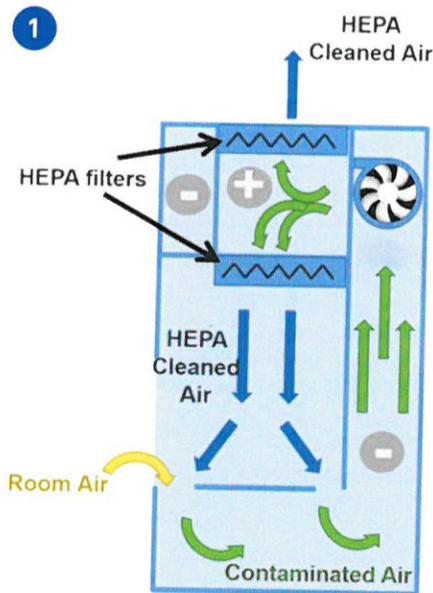
1. Flame
2. Biosafety Cabinet (BSC)

It has been frequently observed that the two practices have been combined, where a heat source has been used within the BSC.

Several heat sources were evaluated in two sizes of BSC, using smoke for airflow visualization, particle counting for air cleanliness, and aerosol microbiological testing to show containment.

FIGURE 1. Sideview diagram of a Class II Type A2 BSC.

FIGURE 2. Heat Sterilizers. From left to right, the Bacti-Cinerator, Spirit Lamp, Standard Bunsen Burner, and High Heat Bunsen Burner.



Ultimately, it was shown that large flamed burners were found to have the most detrimental effects on the ability of the BSC to maintain containment, especially in the center of the work area, while the smaller heat sources were variable.



As a result, due to the variable outcome from location to location, and between burner types, it has been concluded that using a heat source within a BSC cannot be recommended!

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Weather Safety Tips

Be a force of nature!

Each year, numerous individuals in our country are severely injured or lose their lives due to extreme weather conditions, despite receiving advance warnings. We urge everyone to understand their risk and take proactive measures to “Be a Force of Nature.”

Know Your Risk

Severe weather, including hurricanes, droughts, tornadoes, snowstorms, and flooding, impacts every part of our country. The first step to becoming weather-ready is to understand the type of hazardous weather that can affect where you live and work, and how the weather could impact you, your family, and your community.

Stay Informed

Stay updated with the latest forecast information. You can:

- Bookmark [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) for the latest forecast information.
- Follow the National Weather Service on Facebook and Twitter.
- Read the State of the Climate reports to discover historical trends.

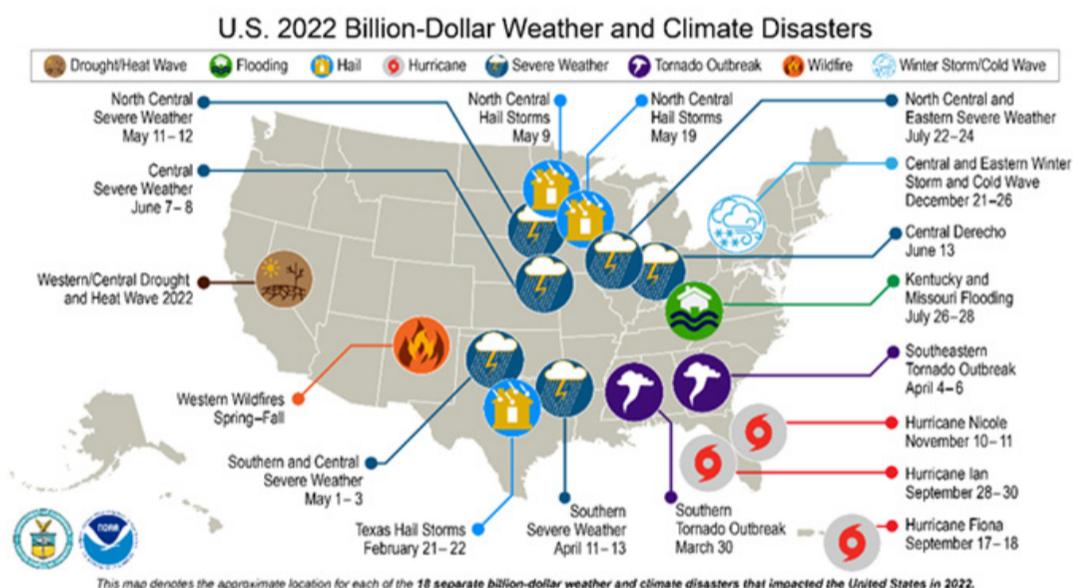
Take Action

Ensure that you and your family are prepared for severe weather. This includes creating a disaster supplies kit and making sure that you can receive emergency messages.

Here's what you can do:

- Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Learn about Wireless Emergency Alerts.
- Create a disaster supplies kit.

By taking these steps, you can help protect yourself and your loved ones from the unpredictable forces of nature.



UD Alert: Stay Informed, Stay Safe

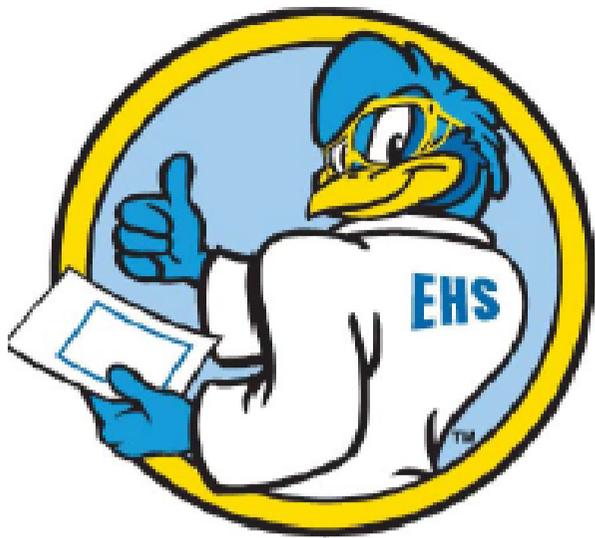
UD Alert is the University of Delaware's primary emergency notification system. It allows us to send critical messages within minutes during major emergencies or imminent danger situations. Here's what you need to know. Visit the [instructions page](#) to sign up or update your contact information.

LiveSafe: Your Safety Companion

The **LiveSafe app** is the University of Delaware's official safety tool. Download it to your smartphone and take advantage of its features:

- **Report Suspicious Activity:** Be aware of your surroundings and report anything unusual. Use the LiveSafe app to submit tips or concerns.
- **Emergency Assistance:** In case of an emergency, call 911, use the LiveSafe app, or locate the nearest **Blue Light Phone** on campus.
- Simply pick up any Blue Light phone, and you'll be connected to help.

Remember, safety starts with each of us. Let's be proactive and create a safer community together!



Environmental Health and Safety 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.



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