

Environmental Health & Safety

# Safety BEACON

www.udel.edu/ehs  
302-831-8475

## Fire on Campus

*Fire was determined accidental*

### Fire Details

A recent fire at 164 S. College Ave. was determined to be accidental by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The February 19th fire started in a 3rd floor office stairwell on the south side of the building at approximately 5:30AM. University Police and EHS, along with Aetna FD and other mutual aid fire companies responded to the contained fire. Fire crews were quickly able to make headway and limit the fire to the area of origin. After sifting through burnt debris and reconstructing the fire scene, it was determined that a window mounted air conditioner failed due to an electrical malfunction. Much of the building contents were spared because the building users kept the stairwell doors closed and that prevented the spread of smoke and heat damage.



164 S. College Avenue Fire, February 19th, 2023



**Clean up your workspaces- make sure fire extinguishers are accessible**

### Fire Prevention on Campus

Recent fire safety surveys of campus buildings are finding one common fire hazard that can be easily remedied; poor housekeeping. In most cases the poor housekeeping involves overloading storage areas. In many cases the occupants didn't realize what they were storing. Other concerns are that some building users have access to electrical and mechanical rooms that should be designated for M&O only.

These spaces are assigned to Facilities Maintenance and Operations for upkeep of the building utilities. Please discontinue this practice if you're currently doing so. With the warmer months of spring rapidly approaching, perhaps it's a good idea for a little spring cleaning of your areas. Feel free to contact EHS Fire Safety Group at [fire-safe@udel.edu](mailto:fire-safe@udel.edu) for assistance and ideas.

# Radiation Safety

## *UD offers Microwave Oven Monitoring Program on Campus*

The microwave oven monitoring program is designed to offer the University community a free safety assessment of the microwave ovens in any University building or residence. The assessment, performed by Environmental Health and Safety staff, consists of a test of the safety shut-off interlocks and a microwave leakage survey. Ovens that show damage to the door seal, hinges, latches, or interior walls may leak microwaves at levels that exceed the safety performance standards set by the US Food and Drug Administration.

To schedule a microwave oven safety assessment, contact William Fendt at [wfendt@udel.edu](mailto:wfendt@udel.edu) or by phone at 302-831-8475.



## Wash the Right Way!

### *Properly washing your car makes all the difference*



- Wash your car in the grass so the ground can filter the water naturally. Use soap sparingly.
- Use a hose with a pistol grip or trigger nozzle to save water.
- Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse it quickly.
- When you're done, empty your bucket of soapy water down the sink, in the grass, gravel, or into another area able to absorb it, NOT the street or driveway.
- Vacuum car interiors; don't shake the dirt from floor mats onto the ground. This helps prevent dirt from reaching storm drains in the next rain. Make sure all trash is thrown away or recycled.
- Best of all, take your car to a commercial car wash! Most car washes reuse water several times before sending it for treatment at a sewage treatment plant.

# EHS Lab Safety Pop-up Events

Snacks  
included!

**Come meet the EHS team!**

**Wednesday  
April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am  
to  
11:30am**

**Colburn Lab**

**Wednesday  
May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**9:30am  
to  
11:30am**

**AP Bio**

**Learn how to improve safety practices in your labs!**

**Win EHS swag items!**



# University of Delaware CAMPUS EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Emergencies can happen anywhere, anytime. To ensure you receive important emergency information, UD Emergency Management recommends you enroll in at least three emergency notification systems. University officials may use the following resources to notify the University community of a condition that threatens the health and safety of individuals on campus.

## UD Alert



UD Alert is the University of Delaware's primary emergency notification system, facilitated through the emergency notification vendor, Send Word Now. UD Alert allows UD to send emergency messages within minutes. The system is only activated during major emergencies in which there is an imminent danger to

the safety and welfare of students, faculty and staff, or if a state of emergency is declared.

UD Alert messages are sent as a phone call, email, and text message. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to register to receive UD Alerts. Students, faculty and staff may visit [www.udel.edu/alert/alert-instructions](http://www.udel.edu/alert/alert-instructions) to learn more and register.

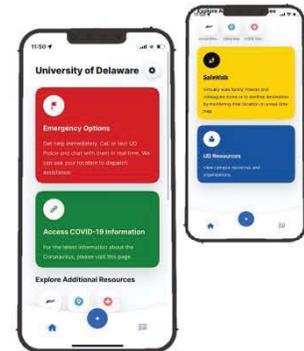


## The LiveSafe App



LiveSafe is a FREE smartphone safety app that enhances emergency communications, helps users prevent crime, and assists users in responding to incidents. LiveSafe supplements UD Alert and permits messaging on less-critical issues (e.g. road closures).

The app is available to anyone (including campus visitors) and can be downloaded on the App Store or Google Play.



## UD Homepage & UDaily



In the event of an emergency, UD Campus & Public Safety provides the Office of Communication & Marketing information to post on the UD home page ([www.udel.edu](http://www.udel.edu)) and the UDaily news service ([www.udel.edu/udaily](http://www.udel.edu/udaily)). Anyone can subscribe to UDaily to receive emails considering breaking UD news.

# UDAILY

SUBSCRIBE TO UDAILY >

## Social Media

Social media is a great tool to receive real-time updates during an emergency. Make sure you are receiving information from expert, credible sources. We recommend following these accounts to ensure you receive the latest information during an incident:

- University of Delaware ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#))
- UD Police ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#))
- The National Weather Service – Mount Holly Forecast Office ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#))



## Major Media Outlets

The University proactively provides major media outlets (e.g. regional radio, television, newspaper and online media sources) with real-time information concerning any emergency impacting the campus. These outlets include [Delawareonline](#), [WDEL](#), [WPVI](#), and [the Newark Post](#), among others.



## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

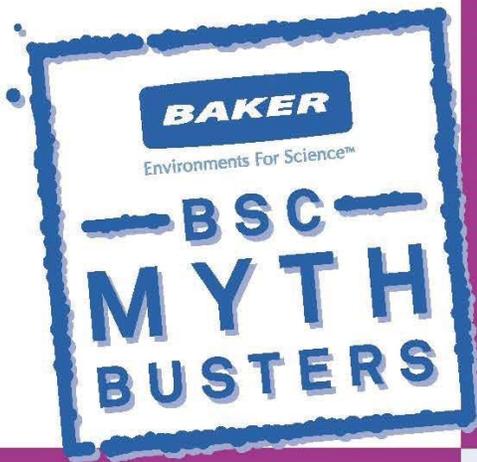
**Always call 911 in any life-threatening emergency! The UD Police Department is the primary contact for all on-campus emergencies. Take a moment to save these important phone numbers in your contacts.**

UD Police .....	302-831-2222
UD Facilities Operations Center .....	302-831-1141
UD Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) .....	302-831-8475
UD Student Health Center .....	302-831-2226
Poison Information Center .....	800-222-1222
Newark Police Department (Non-Emergency) .....	302-366-7111



Office of Emergency Management

[www.udel.edu/emergency](http://www.udel.edu/emergency)



# CAN HEPA<sub>s</sub> FILTER OUT EVERYTHING?

Researchers have speculated that DNA may not be captured by HEPA filters, allowing for contamination of subsequent experiments by aerosolized DNA.

What about volatile chemicals?

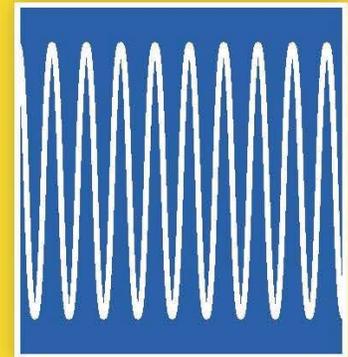


WITH  
**KARA HELD Ph.D.**  
BAKER SCIENCE DIRECTOR

## 1 HOW HEPA<sub>s</sub> WORK:

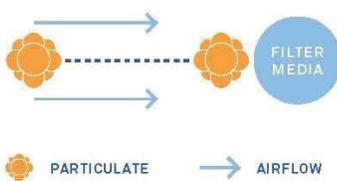
HEPA filters are the main line of defense against contamination in Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) construction. HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters are composed of one continuous pleated sheet of borosilicate fibers woven into a crosshatched design.

Read the full White Paper here:  
<https://bit.ly/2nUUd1d>

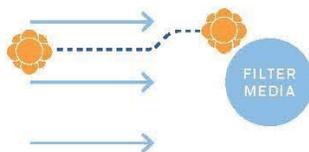


## 2 HEPA CAPTURE DYNAMICS:

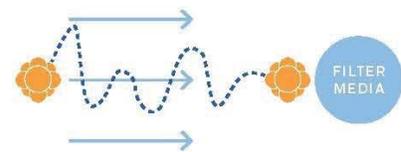
**Inertial Impaction** uses a rapid change in air direction and the principles of inertia to separate the particulate from the air stream.



**Interception** involves having the particulate make physical contact and becoming attached to the media fiber.



**Diffusion** occurs when the random motion of a particle causes that particle to make contact.



Picture credit: [www.science101.com](http://www.science101.com)

## 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](mailto:dehsafety@udel.edu)

