



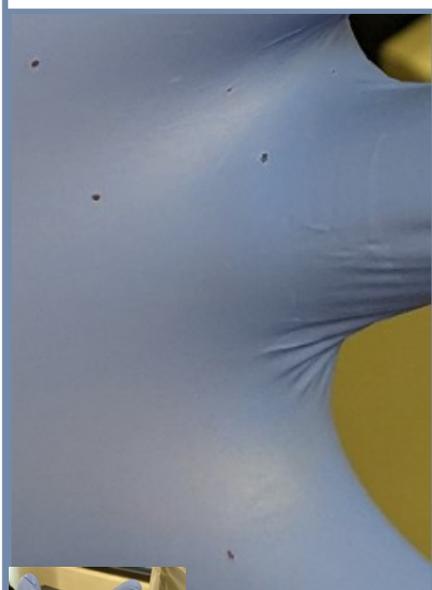
Spring 2022

## Safety Alert: Glove Degradation

Recent EHS lab inspections identified gloves that showed some sort of degradation in about 20% of labs. Some gloves had pinholes, tears and cracks; others had color and texture changes. This kind of breakdown was seen where boxes of gloves were left open and exposed for an extended period of time, such as experienced during the campus shutdowns for Covid-19. This degradation is occurring before the manufacturer's declared expiration date.

Nitrile, latex, and neoprene gloves are affected. They range in manufacture dates from 2004 to 2020. These gloves include different thicknesses and were manufactured by a variety of companies.

Using degraded gloves compromises your safety. The risk of potential physical exposure to chemicals, microorganisms and pathogens is greatly increased.



*Palm of a stretched nitrile glove showing pinhole breaks in the material.*

### Please follow these recommendations to help ensure your safety:

- Before use, stretch out all gloves and inspect carefully; it only takes a tiny pinhole to result in an exposure
- Keep gloves in drawers or under plastic covers with UV filtration
- Try to use gloves within two months of opening the box
- Limit the number of open boxes in any location

### Water Intrusions

*are when water finds its way into a building where it doesn't belong. We have already had 35 separate water events since January 1st. If you see water where it should not be inside a building, please report it as an emergency. Do not rely on voice mail or email; call until you reach a person.*

**Contact EHS**  
(208-885-6524),  
**Facilities**  
(208-885-6246) or  
**U of I Security**  
(208-885-7054).

*If all else fails, call the Moscow Police Dept. (208-883-7054) Dispatch can contact the appropriate U of I personnel to respond.*

**Safety  
Is Our  
#1 Priority**



## Safety Training in GSMU/Canvas

This year, online safety training moved from BbLearn to Canvas. Canvas continues to interact with GoSignMeUp in the same manner as BbLearn, so there will be no changes for employees to enroll in courses. The exciting news is that students are now able to take the online courses through Canvas. We currently have 21 online courses, including lab safety awareness, hazard communication with GHS, and the Radiation Safety Orientation. Several more online courses are in development.

GSMU: <https://uidaho.gosignmeup.com/public/>

Canvas: <https://canvas.uidaho.edu/>

# Making Safety a Core Value

I recently had the opportunity to talk with Lee Espey, Division Operations Officer for the Division of Finance and Administration, about his experience with a safety culture, and specifically how he saw the development of a safety culture at the University of Idaho.

**Q:** How long have you been at U of I?

**A:** I joined the university in September, 2020, as the Operations Officer for DFA.

**Q:** What is your experience with the university's safety culture?

**A:** As the Ops Officer, I have seen the safety culture through EHS and other units that report to me, and how these other units, such as U of I Risk and Facilities Management, overlap with safety. Shadowing staff of the EHS team has been a great way to learn about how safety is perceived around campus.

**Q:** What is your previous experience with a safety culture?

**A:** Most recently, I came from the field of healthcare, working for primary care and multiple specialty clinics. I would perform monthly safety checks of the facilities, to include what was happening with staff, how problems could be solved, and reviewing processes to engineer out the potential for human error. The focus was on the end-goal, making any incident a learning opportunity without assigning blame. Safety was fully integrated into work habits.

**Q:** How would you assess the safety culture at U of I?

**A:** Safety culture is an ongoing project and the university is doing well. The university is a community, and people genuinely want to work to help each other. The outreach I have seen from EHS has created good relationships for people to work together—EHS are safety partners, not 'safety police.'

**Q:** How does the administration invest in the safety and well being of all Vandals?

**A:** All the work for Covid-19 has been indicative of the administration's commitment to the well-being of the Vandal community. Also, we were recently able to add back a position in EHS. I am optimistic that President Green and Vice President Foisy want the best for all of us. As the university moves towards R1 status, the implementation of safety programs will be an important factor.

*Interviewed by Jane Westervelt, 3/24/22*



Lee Espey, DFA Division Operations Officer, trying out a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) used by the EHS emergency response team.

Check out [uidaho.edu/i-safety](https://uidaho.edu/i-safety), your hub for year-round safety information

## EHS Contacts

In an emergency, call 911

For urgent situations, please call until you connect with someone—do not rely on voice mail or email. After hours, contact U of I Security at 208-885-7054.

EHS Email	<a href="mailto:safety@uidaho.edu">safety@uidaho.edu</a>
EHS Office	208-885-6524
Director	208-885-6524
Fire Safety	208-885-6525
Hazardous Materials	208-885-6279
Industrial Hygiene	208-885-5977
Occupational Safety	208-885-6297
Radiation Safety	208-885-6524
Safety Training	208-885-6524

## EHS Staff Attend FEMA Training

Recently, three members of the EHS team had the opportunity to travel to Anniston, Alabama for Hazardous Materials Technician (HMT) training offered through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP). The five-day, 40-hour course is based on several NFPA® standards and provides HAZMAT-specific response knowledge and skills that will enhance the U of I Emergency Response Team's (UIERT) ability to respond to HAZMAT emergencies. Hands-on training in high level personal protective suits and other equipment, leak containment in drums and pressurized containers, and



decontamination methods improve our actions in both small and large scale emergencies. With our mutual aid agreements, the training not only helps to keep the university safer, but also the community of Moscow and the surrounding environment.