

Office of Public Safety and Security

Environmental Health & Safety | Risk Management & Insurance | Campus Security | Emergency Management & Security Systems

January 2017

Laboratory Safety: Five Target Areas in 2017

In response to recent lab accidents around the nation that lead to severe injuries, the University of Idaho seeks to engage all laboratories in a culture of safety effort aimed at implementing best practice safety standards that follow the recommendations of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) 2015 task force. Under the direction of the vice president for Infrastructure and the vice president for Research and Economic Development, the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and the Office of Research Assurances (ORA) identified five target areas for laboratory safety that can be improved campus-wide: chemical waste storage, proper use of personal protective equipment, sharps and biohazard handling and disposal, clear access to emergency equipment and proper fume hood use. In early 2017, the laboratory safety commitment will be distributed to those who are responsible for labs. The safety commitments should be completed and posted in prominent locations in each lab by July 2017. In October 2017, EHS will conduct lab walk-throughs to assess how labs are addressing the five areas. For assistance in addressing these areas before October, please contact EHS.

What's New

- New hire in OPSS: Heidi Pederson joined the Vandal family as the new Clery Compliance Coordinator and OPSS Office Manager in November 2016.
- New hire in Risk Management: Carry Salonen rejoined the team as Risk Analyst in October 2016.
- Updated Defensive Driving Course now available in NetLearning@uidaho

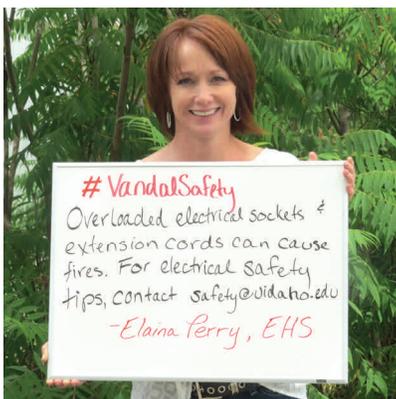
EHS is Working With the Registrar's Office to Prevent Overcrowding

Overcrowded areas and rooms are a serious threat to safety in an emergency. Maximum occupancy limits are based on exits, furniture arrangements within rooms and the function of the room (lab, classroom, etc.). Exceeding these limits puts everyone at greater risk in the event of the need to evacuate. Please do not allow more people into a room than the given occupancy limit. Remember, instructors and TAs are included in the total number of people in a room. Some rooms have "maximum occupancy" signs designating what the allowance is, but others do not. If you are unsure of the limit in the room you are using, check with the Registrar's office and/or EHS to ensure the room is not overcrowded.

Vandal Alert

Vandal Alert is used to contact the University of Idaho community by email, text messaging and voice in the event of an emergency (such as a weather closure or delay).

Log in to [VandalWeb](#) to sign up today!



A Real Idaho Winter

This year, we are enjoying increased snow pack and what some folks call "A real Idaho winter." With this beauty comes additional hazards and a need to keep safety in mind when navigating around your work locations.

Here are a few safety tips to use at work and home:

- Take small steps, maintaining your center of balance.
- Take it SLOW - allow extra time to reach your destination.
- Wear appropriate footwear for the weather and wear traction devices, such as Yaktrax®, between buildings.
- Focus on walking - put the phone away.
- Use a handrail if navigating steps.
- Look ahead and pick your path of travel based on best surface.
- Wipe your feet on the mats when entering a building.
- When exiting your vehicle, hold onto the frame until you are upright and steady.

There have been thirteen slip, trip or fall incidents reported already for December and January. Slow down, focus on your maneuvers and stay upright. If you do slip, please complete an incident report at www.uidaho.edu/ehs and let your supervisor know as soon as possible.

Safety Precautions With New LED Lights

Facilities Services is nearing completion of a project to replace most of the 4-foot fluorescent lamps on campus with “Plug and Play” LED tubes. Over 60,000 lamps have been exchanged, representing a significant reduction in energy and maintenance costs. In addition, the risk of mercury release from broken fluorescent lights has been substantially reduced.

However, you need to be aware of some potential safety concerns created by the re-lamping project.

- *Do not install or replace any lamps in 4-foot fluorescent fixtures.* Contact your Building Services representative or Facilities Services main office at 208-885-6246.
- *Promptly report any problems that you notice in a 4-foot light fixture,* including flickering of the new LED lamp, unusual noise or odor coming from the fixture and obvious electrical arcing or evidence of arcing on the tube or fixture.

During the project, a 1” x 2.5” label was attached to all rewired fixtures to alert users to the potential hazard (see example). Please pay attention to this label.

CAUTION: THIS FIXTURE HAS BEEN MODIFIED FOR LED DEVICE AND CAN NO LONGER OPERATE THE ORIGINALLY SPECIFIED FLUORESCENT LAMP (S). PLEASE INQUIRE WITH A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN OR CONTACT DIGILITELED.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.

NetLearning@uidaho

First Aid/CPR/AED Training

Faculty and staff may renew or obtain a two year certification through American Heart Association. EHS facilitates these certifications for faculty and staff, and offers a class on the first Friday of every month. You may also schedule a class specifically for your work unit.

For more information, contact Patricia at 208-885-2937 or email safety@uidaho.edu

Lab Signage Program, 2017

EHS will be working with departments to create lab signage containing information on hazards within the lab, PPE and entry requirements, and contact information for those who work in the lab. Check the EHS website in March for more information on how to obtain a sign for your lab through EHS or contact mgrenille@uidaho.edu directly.

On the Horizon:

- Hazardous Waste Management Workshop for Laboratory Personnel; 2:00 pm–4:00 pm; January 19, 2017; Ag Science Room 62.
- First Aid/CPR/AED class; 8:00 am–12:00pm; February 3, 2017; Jack’s Creek Room, Facilities.
- 5-hour Radiation Safety Course to be scheduled in February.

Building: Ag Science Room: 313		University of Idaho Environmental Health and Safety	
AREA HAZARDS AND WARNINGS			
			
PPE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS			
			
<small>EMERGENCY - CALL 911 FOR FIRE, POLICE, HEALTH and Medical Emergencies Campus Security - (208) 885-7054 Environmental Health & Safety - (208) 885-6524</small>			
Department	Name	Office	Work Phone

Don't Disable Smoke Detectors!

Throughout campus buildings; including classrooms, residence halls, and lounges; fire and smoke alarms have been found broken, covered, or otherwise rendered inoperable. It may be annoying when smoke alarms activate while cooking, working on projects, smoking indoors, or using aerosols, but tampering with alarms to silence them can be deadly. Leaving smoke alarms, detectors, heat sensors and other life safety alert systems in non-working condition could cost someone their life in the event of a fire or emergency. Please, never tamper with life safety equipment without the knowledge and permission of proper authorities. The safety and health of all is everyone's responsibility!

Public Safety & Security Contacts

Office of Public Safety & Security	208-885-2254
Campus Security	208-885-7054
Emergency Management & Security Systems	208-885-7179
Environmental Health & Safety	208-885-6524
Risk Management & Insurance	208-885-7177
Safe Walk	208-885-7054

Safe Walk

Don't want to walk across campus alone? Campus Security will accompany students, faculty, and/or staff across campus to make sure they can safely traverse the campus without fear of personal harm. Call 208-885-7054 to make arrangements.