Texas A&M University conducts research valued at over $700 million annually, with over one million square feet of laboratory space on campus. With researchers and faculty members constantly in transition by moving into, out of, or between facilities, it can be difficult to keep track of occupied laboratory space. To help keep up with the changes, Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) has established a Laboratory Registration Program and the Texas A&M Laboratory Decommissioning Procedure (24.01.01.M4.04).

The Laboratory Registration Program collects important information about campus laboratory occupancies, including existing equipment and any hazards (chemical, physical, radiological, or biological) that may be associated with the work therein. All Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to complete the Laboratory Registration Form upon assignment of lab space and prior to conducting research at Texas A&M University. Once the form is complete and has been reviewed by EHS, the PI will be contacted if necessary to discuss university policies, lab safety guidelines, and training requirements relating to the type of research involved. The Lab Registration Form is also useful when determining who to contact about upcoming laboratory inspections or in the event of an emergency.

As a Texas A&M Standard Administrative Procedure (SAP), the Laboratory Decommissioning Procedure must be applied when a PI moves out of a lab space whether the PI is moving to a new lab within the same building, moving to another building on campus, or leaving the University altogether. The purpose of decommissioning a lab is to ensure that hazards have been appropriately removed from the lab space. All too often, a new researcher comes to a lab and “inherits” old chemicals and equipment not knowing whether or not the equipment is contaminated with a chemical or biological hazard. The new researcher is then responsible for items left behind. By completing the decommissioning procedure, the department is able to document that all portable equipment and supplies have been removed from the lab and that chemicals, radioactive and biological materials, sharps, and other waste materials have been disposed of properly. This ensures that the unoccupied lab is ready for the new PI.

To view a copy of the Laboratory Decommissioning SAP and the Laboratory Registration Form, please visit http://ehsd.tamu.edu/LaboratorySafety.aspx.
Learn more about emergency preparedness in a fun, interactive setting.

Campus Safety Awareness Week is an annual event that promotes safety and provides emergency information from a variety of university departments and community emergency responders. This week offers the campus an opportunity to learn more about emergency preparedness in a fun, interactive setting. Campus Safety Awareness Week will be September 6–8 to coincide with National Preparedness Month, National Campus Fire Safety Month, and National Campus Safety Awareness Month. For a detailed schedule of events including locations and up-to-date information, follow Campus Safety Awareness Week on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/tamu.SafetyWeek or look for the on the next two pages.

Meet and Greet

This is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to get to know some of the emergency responders from our local community. Fire engines, ambulances, police squad cars, and more will be on display. Resource tables will be set up with important safety and emergency preparedness information.

Target Audience: Students, Faculty, & Staff
When: Tuesday, September 11th from 11 AM to 1 PM
Where: The Zone Plaza

Sidewalk CPR

It is a fact: CPR saves lives. Every second counts when someone collapses from sudden cardiac arrest. Take a few minutes to learn Hands-Only CPR for adults. We will have trained emergency responders teaching you the compression-only method to help revive heart attack victims. Please note that you will not receive CPR certification for this training.

Target Audience: Students, Faculty, & Staff
When: Wednesday, September 12th from 9 AM to 10 AM
Where: MSC Room 2406-A
OR
When: Thursday, September 13th from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Where: MSC Room 1400

Personal Safety

The University Police Department’s Crime Prevention Unit will be offering the Shots Fired Presentation to students, faculty, and staff interested in learning how to respond when threatened with an act of violence on campus. UPD will discuss various aspects of personal safety, prevention, and awareness with an emphasis on recognizing and surviving an active shooter situation.

Target Audience: Students, Faculty, & Staff
When: Wednesday, September 12th from 9 AM to 10 AM
Where: MSC Room 2406-A
OR
When: Thursday, September 13th from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Where: MSC Room 1400

For more information, please visit http://www.facebook.com/tamu.SafetyWeek
BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING

Continuity planning has largely been adopted by private businesses and more recently, governmental agencies. However, colleges and universities often struggle with adapting a pure business model or governmental model of continuity planning for the higher education setting. This presentation will discuss the approach taken by Texas A&M University at the institutional level and resources available for departmental level planning.

Target Audience: Faculty & Staff
When: Wednesday, September 12th from 3 PM to 4 PM
Where: MSC Room 2406-A

OR

When: Thursday, September 13th from 9 AM to 10 AM
Where: MSC Room 2406-A

FACILITY MANAGER ROUND TABLE

The Facilities Management Safety Training will provide information to departmental or facility personnel with safety responsibilities. The topics covered will be work order procedures, building contact information, building emergency planning, and other safety and emergency related information.

Target Audience: Building Proctors, Facility Coordinators, Safety Team(s) Representatives
When: Wednesday, September 12th from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Where: MSC Room 2406-A

OR

When: Thursday, September 13th from 10 AM to 11 AM
Where: MSC Room 2406-A

STREAM CLEAN

Environmental Health & Safety welcomes Aggies and members of the community to participate in our annual Stream Clean. This year’s event will occur on Saturday, October 6th. Check-in is at 1111 Research Parkway at 8 AM, and the event ends at noon. Student groups competing in the Sustainability Challenge will receive points for participating in Stream Clean. If you are interested in more information or how to register a group, please contact Tassie Hermann at 845-2132.

National Night Out

National Night Out 2012 will be held at the Texas A&M University Apartments Community Center on October 2nd from 6—8 PM. This community-based event will focus on building stronger relations between A&M students and emergency responders. There will be police, fire, and emergency medical service responders, emergency vehicles, and other resource tables available to provide information to the public. Join us for free food and activities, plus door prizes, safety displays, and demonstrations.
Living in Texas brings the threat of Texas-sized weather, including thunderstorms, floods, tornadoes, extreme heat, and hurricanes. The peak season for severe weather is upon us now, with the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season running from June 1st to November 30th. The most important step in preventing personal injury and loss of property is to plan ahead.

- Have a family communication plan for emergencies (family member contact and out-of-the-area contact).
- Start an emergency survival kit. Include non-perishable food and one gallon of water per person per day for seven days, pet food, prescription medicine, non-electric can opener, insect repellant, flashlight, batteries, portable radio, infant and elderly supplies (if needed), clean-up supplies, first aid kit, cash, and clothing.
- Develop an escape route from your home. Establish a meeting place near your home, such as a neighbor’s house, and away from your home, such as a nearby grocery store parking lot.

In the event severe weather affects the Texas A&M community, postpone outdoor activities and find shelter inside a home, building, car, etc. Secure windows, doors, and outdoor objects. Avoid trees, electrical poles, and anything metal. On campus, pay attention to the lightning prediction system which will sound a horn to warn those outdoors to seek shelter from imminent lightning threats.

More information on what to do during severe weather can be found at the following websites:

- http://www.tamu.edu/emergency
- http://www.noaa.gov

The most important step in preventing personal injury and loss of property is to plan ahead.

DUSK and DAWN are the times of day you should try to stay indoors. This is when mosquitoes are most active.

DRESS in long sleeves and pants when you are outside. For extra protection, you may want to spray thin clothing with repellent.

DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient you should look for in insect repellent. Follow label instructions and always wear repellent when outdoors.

DRAIN standing water in your backyard and neighborhood – old tires, flowerpots and clogged rain gutters. These are mosquito breeding sites.

DON’T FORGET!
Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 AM on Sunday, November 4th.

SEVERE WEATHER

WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)

Mosquitos recently collected on campus and around Brazos County have tested positive for WNV. WNV infections usually peak during summer months and continue through the fall, when mosquitoes are most active.

Most human infections of WNV show no symptoms at all, and about 20% cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, fatigue, headache, and muscle or joint pain. Fewer than 1% of humans infected with WNV show severe symptoms including high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, tremors, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Take precautions to defend yourself against mosquitoes by following the “Four Ds”: Stay indoors during DUSK and DAWN; DRESS in long sleeves and pants when outside; use insect repellent that contains DEET; and DRAIN standing water around your home.

For current information about WNV in Texas, visit http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/arboviral/westNile/. For symptoms and ways to prevent infection, visit http://shs.tamu.edu/westnile or contact the Brazos County Health Department at (979) 361-4440.
FLU SEASON

Pollution Prevention, or P2, is reducing or eliminating waste at the source by modifying production processes, promoting the use of non-toxic substances, implementing conservation techniques, and reusing materials rather than developing a waste stream or purchasing new items.

P2 history and basic information can be found at http://www.epa.gov/p2/pub/basics.htm.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends three ways to fight seasonal influenza (the flu). The first and most important action is to get a flu vaccination each year. If you get the flu, there are prescription antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women.

You can take the following steps to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory illness like the flu:

• Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. This will block the spread of droplets from your mouth or nose that could contain germs.
• Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
• Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
• If you or a family member gets sick, limit contact with others as much as possible. Stay home (or keep your child home) for at least 24 hours after fever is gone except to seek medical care or for other necessities. Fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
• If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice.

The Energy Action Plan (EAP) 2015 has been established to continue improving the efficiency of energy services on campus. EAP 2015 has a goal to reduce energy consumption by 20% for the five-year period of FY11 through FY15. This is challenging but can be accomplished through implementation and management of the comprehensive plan found at http://utilities.tamu.edu/energy-action-plan-2015.

Explore campus, have fun, and win prizes! The Memorial Student Center (MSC) is celebrating its reopening and its new sustainable features. Help make sustainability a campus tradition by participating in the MSC Sustainability Scavenger Hunt on September 7th from 3–4:30 PM. Learn more about the event and register at http://sustainability.tamu.edu/scavenger-hunt.aspx.

The Aggie Green Fund provides these stickers for the back of residence hall room doors to invite on-campus Aggies to help make sustainability a tradition.

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P2 history and basic information can be found at http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/basic.htm.
Texas A&M University has a significant bat population, with bats commonly found in buildings, dorms, and athletic complexes. Bats are a high-rabies risk species and should never be touched. Close all windows and doors to help keep bats and other animals from entering buildings. If you come in contact with a bat, find a live or dead bat in a building, or see a bat outside that cannot fly, call the Communications Center at 845-4311. For more information about bats and rabies, visit the Texas Department of State Health Services Infectious Disease Control website at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies.

ARE YOU READY FOR AGGIE FOOTBALL?

Before you park on campus and fire up that grill, please read the campus tailgating rules at http://tailgating.tamu.edu.

AGGIE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA Tech</td>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMU</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC State</td>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Sep 29</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHSU</td>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Home games are in bold.

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow directly into a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters the storm sewer system is discharged untreated into bodies we use for swimming, fishing, drinking water. Please help keep our streams clean by placing all garbage and pet waste into the proper receptacle and by properly disposing of used oil and household chemicals.

If you notice any signs of heat stress, be sure to move the affected person to a cool place. Loosen tight clothing, remove sweat-soaked clothing, and apply cool, wet towels to the skin. If the person is conscious, give small amounts of cool water to drink. If you notice signs of worsening, vomiting, or loss of consciousness, call 911 (9-911 from a campus phone), and place the person on his or her side. Continue to cool the person by using ice or cold packs on his or her wrists, ankles, groin, neck, and armpits.

SIGNS OF HEAT STRESS:

- Fatigue / Weakness
- Headache
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Cramps
- Cool & Clammy Skin
- Flushed Face
- Hot & Dry Skin
- No Perspiration
- Chills
GETTING AROUND CAMPUS

A stroll through our beautiful campus can be refreshing and peaceful, but it is evident that the look of things are changing. With the large number of construction projects and contractor vehicles on campus, it is imperative to stay alert to your surroundings.

Be aware of construction and maintenance projects on or near pedestrian and travel areas at all times. Watch for construction signage and barricades, and stay away from equipment. If a site is closed to pedestrian or vehicle traffic, do not enter. Familiarize yourself with the layout of campus to map out the safest route to your destination beforehand. Always use crosswalks when possible and check for traffic. Do not assume drivers will yield to a pedestrian who enters the crosswalk.

At night, plan the safest route by choosing adequately lighted walkways, parking lots, and streets. If you must walk alone, you may contact the Corps of Cadets Guard Room (845-6789) for a free 24-hour escort to most locations on campus.

If you prefer alternative transportation to counter the high cost of fuel, or you just enjoy exercise on a bike, you should be aware of laws and Texas A&M policies.

• When you ride a bicycle on campus, you are a driver.
• You must follow state laws, give signals, obey stop signs, and yield right-of-way just as vehicle drivers do.
• You can be cited for traveling the wrong way down a one-way street.

Don’t operate bicycles in parking garages, bring them inside buildings, or ride in any area where bicycles are restricted by regulation or signs.

• Be aware and obey all dismount zones on campus.
• Look for the new Bike Maintenance Stations on campus equipped with a bike stand, tools, and an air pump.

For bicycle laws in Texas, visit http://transport.tamu.edu/bicycles.aspx.

DATES OF INTEREST

September: National Preparedness Month
September 17—23: Pollution Prevention Week
October: National Crime Prevention Month
October 24: Sustainability Day Celebration
October 27: Household Hazardous Waste Collection
November 15: Texas Recycles Day

How would you respond in a workplace emergency? Texas A&M offers an Individual Emergency Preparedness Training through TrainTraq (Course No. 2111670) that provides an awareness of potential workplace hazards and how to respond to those hazards. Visit http://sso.tamu.edu to access the training.

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

Don’t forget to register for Code Maroon at http://codemaroon.tamu.edu. If you receive a Code Maroon alert, go to http://emergency.tamu.edu to find out more information that may be too long to include in the SMS text message.
General Radiation Safety  
9/20, 10/17, 11/15

Hazardous Materials Shipping General Awareness  
9/20, 10/18, 11/15

Introduction to Laboratory Safety  
9/5, 9/6, 10/10, 10/11

Please call 845-2132 to inquire about additional courses, training videos, or any of the following topics: Fire Extinguishers, Hazard Communication, Hearing Protection, Respiratory Protection, Laser Safety, Forklift Safety, Accident Investigation, Utility Cart Training, Asbestos Awareness.

SAFETY SOUND OFF

Congratulations to Patty Vychopen for being chosen for this season’s Safety Sound Off! Patty is proactive in assisting employees in Veterinary Pathobiology with shipping biological specimens. She makes sure that they are complying with hazardous materials regulations, and if they need training or assistance, that they contact Hazardous Material Shipping at EHS. Thank you, Patty, for doing your part to keep our campus safe and compliant!

Know someone who applies good health and safety practices at TAMU? Send their name, work department, and reason why we should feature them in our next Safety Sound Off to safetydispatch@tamu.edu.

YOUR NUMBER IS UP!

Can you solve the Sudoku puzzle? Email the number that belongs in the highlighted square to safetydispatch@tamu.edu for a chance to win a prize!

DID YOU KNOW?

According to NIEHS, wearing headphones for just one hour could increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

In the United States, approximately 700 bicyclists were killed and 540,000 visited the emergency room with injuries in 2007. Be careful!

SAFETY DISPATCH

1111 Research Parkway, Suite 220  
MS 4472  
College Station, TX 77843-4472  
Phone: 979.845.2132  
Fax: 979.845.1348  
Email: safetydispatch@tamu.edu  
Website: http://ehsd.tamu.edu

Newsletter Committee: Jodi Amos, Dee Donovan, Toni Eubanks, Monica Hartman, Tony Haynes, Brent Jemelka, Kristen Robinson, Aaron Scheffler, Monica Weintraub, Marianna Wood.

EHS Director: John Salsman

Heard of the OSHA Global Harmonization plan for chemical labeling and MSDS? Changes aren’t going into effect until December 2013, but some manufacturers are already adapting their materials. For more information, visit http://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom, and keep an eye on future issues of the Safety Dispatch.

ENTER TO WIN A GREAT FALL PRIZE!

Which school in the SEC lost its Academic Hall to fire in 1892? Email your name and answer to safetydispatch@tamu.edu, or drop it in campus mail to Safety Dispatch at MS 4472. We will draw for the winner in October.

It’s that time of year again! The State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) begins September 1 and runs through October 31. Visit http://tamus.edu/secc for more information about this important annual fundraising drive.

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