

Maverick Safety Matters

Environmental Health & Safety

FALL 2017

E H

& S

MANAGEMENT TEAM:

Leah V. Hoy
Director,
Radiation & Laser
Safety Officer
hoy@uta.edu

Robert Smith
Associate Director
Fire & Life Safety
rasmith@uta.edu

Ramon Ruiz
Assistant Director
Environmental &
Laboratory Safety
ruiz@uta.edu



Environmental Health
& Safety Office
500 Summit Ave.
Box 19257
Arlington, TX 76019
Ph: 817-272-2185
Fax: 817-272-2144

UTA Launches New Emergency Response App

Every member of the campus community needs to know what to do during different emergency situations. EH&S and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) have launched MavSafe, an Emergency Response Plan App, so the UTA community can have emergency resources right at their fingertips.

MavSafe works on all smart phones, tablets, and computers. The emergency procedures are stored locally on mobile phones—Internet access is not needed to view the plan, so if the Internet goes down, resources are still available. When the App is opened with connectivity, updates to the content will occur automatically. Users don't have to do a thing.

To download the new [UTA MavSafe Emergency Response Plan App](https://utarlington-e173c.firebaseio.com/) to your smart phone, tablet, or computer, open a browser and go to:

<https://utarlington-e173c.firebaseio.com/>



* Note: Safari is the recommended browser for an iPhone and Chrome for an Android.

As the fall semester begins, EH&S also encourages everyone to visit the [EH&S Emergency Source page](#), which provides guidelines on how to handle a variety of different emergency situations, including links to other university resources. Take the time now to become familiar with exits and [evacuation routes](#) for your building, storm shelters, locations of fire extinguishers and other safety equipment, and also common [emergency terms](#) and instructions such as *lockdown* and *shelter in place*.

To understand the different types of communication channels that the University uses during campus emergencies, please visit uta.edu/emergency.

Be a Maverick and Be Prepared!

If you have any questions, please contact EH&S at 817-272-2185.



Every Second Counts—Plan 2 Ways Out!

This year's theme for annual Fire Prevention Week (FPW), Oct. 8-14, is very important, because in a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between building occupants and residents escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy. More than 1.3 million fires were reported by fire departments in the United States in 2016, resulting in an estimated 3,390 civilian deaths – the highest number of fatalities since 2008. This reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan.

Employees and students should preplan for a fire situation by using [evacuation route maps](#) to become familiar with the primary and alternate exits for their building, apartment or residence hall and by locating fire alarm pull stations and fire extinguishers in their area. If you see a fire or smoke, or if you smell smoke, pull a fire alarm pull station to activate the alarm and begin evacuation of the building. Remember not to use elevators during a fire emergency. Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

When you are out of danger call the UTA Police Department emergency number at 817-272-3003 to report the fire. Once you get outside, stay outside. **Never go back inside a burning building.** After

evacuating, do not reenter the building until directed that it is safe by the Police, EH&S, or the Arlington Fire Department.

EH&S provides training in the use of fire extinguishers to departments and groups upon request. Please call our office at 817-272-2185 or email ehsafety@uta.edu to schedule. EH&S also regularly participates in events such as National Night Out, Earth Day, and Activity Fair Day, where a brief hands-on experience in how to use a fire extinguisher is offered.

Other key messages from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) pertaining to fire safety at home include:

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your fire drill twice a year, using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

See page 4 to take the Fire Prevention Week Quiz-

October Marks National Biosafety Stewardship Month

EH&S STAFF:

Joel Box
Fire Safety Specialist
jbox@uta.edu

Dave Doerr
Construction Project
Coordinator,
Fire Safety
david.doerr@uta.edu

Tracy Gardner
Workers'
Compensation
Claims Analyst
gardner@uta.edu

Rose Hall
Occupational Safety
Specialist
vrhall@uta.edu

Merja Karwoski
Biological Safety
Specialist
merjak@uta.edu

Debbie Kirkley
Coordinator —
Special Programs
debk@uta.edu

Shea McDowell
Chemical Safety
Specialist
shea.mcdowell@uta.edu

Caron Miller
Workers'
Compensation
Claims Analyst
cmiller@uta.edu

In 2014, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other Department of Health and Human Services agencies announced National Biosafety Stewardship Month as a new initiative to promote stewardship of the life sciences and biosafety awareness. National Biosafety Stewardship Month is a period during which institutions are encouraged to reinforce their attention to biosafety policies, practices and procedures, raise awareness of the importance of biosafety, and seek input on ways to strengthen institutional biosafety programs. The NIH Office of Science Policy (NIH OSP) has announced that the third annual National Biosafety Stewardship Month this year is October.

The checklist below provides an overview of the core components of an effective biosafety program when working with microorganisms or with materials containing microorganisms, e.g., in research laboratories. It will help identify if a program is vulnerable in these specific key program areas for biosafety and highlights areas for improvement.

1. Always perform a risk assessment prior to work with any microorganisms. A variety of tools are available such as:

[Pathogen Safety Data Sheets](#)
[Risk Group Classification Databases](#)

Through the risk assessment, determine the appropriate administrative, engineering and work practice controls, and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements. Register materials potentially infectious for humans with the EH&S Office using [Human Pathogen Registration \(HPR\)](#) (Form 8-30). Update your HPR using [Human Pathogen Registration Update](#) (Form 8-31) when the project has terminated or when other significant changes will occur (personnel, location, biohazard deletions/additions).

2. Contact Occupational Health professionals to determine whether a vaccine is indicated and to

develop any necessary medical surveillance and post-exposure protocols.

3. Ensure that laboratory workers have been provided with appropriate biosafety training(s). Conduct relevant site-specific training and document it ([Laboratory Site-Specific Training Sign-in Sheet](#)).
4. Utilize a biosafety cabinet (BSC) and train personnel on how to use it effectively in order to maintain personnel, product, and environmental protection. BSCs are certified on a yearly basis ([Biological Safety Cabinet Certification](#)). If you have a new BSC or your old one has been moved/repairs have been made, contact [EH&S](#) for information about accredited field certifiers to get your BSC certified or recertified.
5. Make sure that laboratory coats, gloves and eye protection are available and always used. Train laboratory personnel on their proper use. Consider the use of disposable lab coats or gowns in certain applications. If respiratory protection will be needed, contact the [EH&S Office](#), who will evaluate the job site risk hazard(s) and recommend appropriate respiratory protective equipment ([Respiratory Protection Program](#)).
6. Ensure the selection and use of an effective disinfectant. The [Pathogen Safety Data Sheets](#) are a good resource.
7. Implement, together with the EH&S Office, a waste management program for sharps, non-sharp biohazardous, and liquid waste streams to be in compliance with all applicable local and state requirements.
8. Prohibit eating, drinking, storage of food and drink in the laboratory, application of cosmetics and mouth-pipetting.
9. Emphasize the need to always wash hands after removing gloves and before leaving the laboratory. Ensure that the sink for hand washing is stocked with soap and paper towels, and that the sink is free of clutter to facilitate hand washing.

10. Develop emergency action plans and train personnel on how to handle biohazardous/chemical spills, medical emergencies, and laboratory accidents and exposures. The [EH&S Emergency Source page](#) provides additional information regarding what to do in various types of emergencies as well as



[building evacuation route maps](#) to help you and your research group plan to safely exit in the event of an emergency.

- Emphasize that all laboratory injuries and illnesses must be reported to appropriate institutional personnel no matter how minor they may seem.

Injury Reporting Forms:

[Supervisor’s Report of Employee Work-Related Injury or Occupational Disease \(Form 8-2\)](#)

Employee (2 forms):

[Employee’s Report of Work-Related Injury or Occupational Disease \(Form 8-6\)](#) and [Workers’ Compensation Network Acknowledgement \(Form 8-20A\)](#)

[Illness/Injury Reporting Form for Students & Visitors \(Form 8-72\)](#)

For more information please refer to the [UTA Biosafety Manual](#).

Laboratory Evaluation Program Revised for Fall

Last fall, EH&S implemented a new Laboratory Evaluation Program Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). This new SOP placed increased importance on timely response and accountability of the individual responsible for the lab area (i.e., Principal Investigator, Shop Supervisor, etc.) and encouraged consistent and effective safety practices in their areas, not just during the laboratory evaluation process.

The first-year implementation of the SOP proved to be very successful at increasing compliance and reducing safety hazards throughout campus laboratories. During the initial FY17 Fall semester laboratory evaluations there were 143 laboratories found to have “Critical – Noncompliant” findings. During the FY17 Spring semester evaluations the number of laboratories with “Critical – Noncompliant” findings had decreased in number by 50 to a total of 93 laboratories. Additionally, during the FY17 Fall laboratory evaluations there were 91 laboratories that were found to be “Compliant”. During the FY17 Spring laboratory evaluations, the number of “Compliant” laboratories increased in number by 67 to a total of 158 laboratories.

At the end of the fiscal year EH&S met with several laboratory principal investigators regarding the evaluation process. Based on this feedback we have made several revisions to the [Laboratory Evaluation](#)

[Program Standard Operating Procedure](#). These revisions will go into effect beginning with the FY18 Fall semester evaluations.

A summary of the changes are highlighted in the table below. One change is that points for repeat deficiencies will be reset and start anew with the FY18 evaluations. Another major change will be the establishment of a formal two-week period at the beginning of each long semester, at which time EH&S will be available for consultation and pre-evaluation assistance. While it has always been and will remain EH&S policy to offer assistance at any time, the thought is to encourage laboratories to request this assistance prior to the laboratory evaluations to ensure that any questions or issues may be resolved before the evaluation process begins.

Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the revised [Laboratory Evaluation Program Standard Operating Procedure](#). If you have any questions, please contact Ramon Ruiz, Assistant Director of EH&S, at ruiz@uta.edu.

The EH&S office will continue to assist responsible individuals (i.e., Principal Investigator, Shop Supervisor, etc.) in determining how to address and correct findings identified during the evaluations, and will also provide information regarding potentially hazardous situations and assist in mitigating these hazards.

Changes to Laboratory Evaluation Procedure

	FY17 Procedure		FY18 Procedure	
Pre-Evaluation Period	None		Two week period at the beginning of each semester (upon request)	
Notification	Unannounced		Minimum two week notice by building to department chairs	
PI Response to Findings	Compliant	None	Compliant	None
	Non-Compliant	5 Days	Non-Compliant	10 Days
	Critical Non-Compliant	2 Days	Critical Non-Compliant	3 Days
Report Copies	Compliant	PI/Chair	Compliant	PI
	Non-Compliant	PI/Chair	Non-Compliant	PI
	Critical Non-Compliant	PI/Chair/Dean/VPR	Critical Non-Compliant	PI/Chair
	PI Does Not Respond to Findings Within Allotted Time	PI/Chair/Dean/VPR	PI Does Not Respond to Findings Within Allotted Time	PI/Chair/Dean
Repeat Deficiencies	Points accumulated in FY17 will be dropped		Points will be reset and begin in FY18	

EH&S STAFF:

Bruce O’Keefe
Fire Safety Coordinator
bruce.okeefe@uta.edu

Jeanette Rea
Administrative Assistant II
jmrea@uta.edu

Harvey Richey
Laser Safety Specialist
hrichey@uta.edu

Elisabeth Rowlett
Chemical Management Specialist
rowlett@uta.edu

Grace Sauce
Contract Specialist
saucegg@uta.edu

Richard Stell
Safety Specialist – Storm Water
rstell@uta.edu

Laura Warren
Radiation Safety Specialist, RSO
lwarren@uta.edu

Eric Woods
Fire Safety Specialist
eric.woods@uta.edu

Protect Yourself from Insect-borne Illnesses

Worldwide, ticks are spreading Lyme disease, a condition caused by a corkscrew bacterium known as *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Lyme disease is known as the "Great Imitator" because symptoms, such as rash, fever, headache, and fatigue, are nonspecific and can mimic many other conditions. Not getting the appropriate treatment for Lyme disease has severe health consequences. Long-term, the infection can cause loss of muscle tone, joint pain, severe headaches, heart palpitations, and other neurological symptoms. Unfortunately, many people who contract the disease end up with a misdiagnosis of fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, multiple sclerosis, or another psychiatric illness.

It's important to note that not all tick bites will transmit disease, and not everyone who is infected with disease will develop symptoms immediately. Because of this, it's more critical to prevent infection in the first place. Preventative measures include using insect repellent, wearing long pants and shirts, and sticking to trails, if possible, when in the woods. Lastly, it's a good habit to always check yourself, your family members, and even your pets, when you get back from the great outdoors.

Diseases carried by mosquitos can also be a concern. Imported cases of both [Zika](#) and [Chikungunya](#) could make local spread of both viruses possible because the Aedes mosquitoes that transmit those

viruses are found in Texas. While the Culex mosquito that carries [West Nile Virus](#) is active and bites only from dusk to dawn, Aedes mosquitoes, which carry Zika and Chikungunya, are active and bite during the day—so it's important for people to do what they can to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and to protect themselves against mosquito bites at all times.

Studies and research continually prove that the most effective, most practical and least expensive means of preventing such illnesses is to **keep mosquitoes from breeding where possible**. Follow this [Backyard Checklist for Eliminating Mosquitoes](#) from the [Tarrant County Public Health Department](#).

Fire Prevention Month Continues through October *(cont. from pg. 1)*

- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Replace the batteries in smoke detectors two times a year. A good way to remember is when you change the clock for Daylight Savings Time in the spring and back again in the fall.

Take the NFPA FPW Quiz

Test your knowledge about home fire escape planning and other fire safety topics.

Portions of this article content reproduced from NFPA's website, www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week

Check out
EH&S on
Facebook
to keep up
with all our
events &
training:

[UT Arlington
Environmental
Health & Safety
Office](#)



Environmental Health
& Safety Office
500 Summit Ave.
Box 19257
Arlington, TX 76019
Ph: 817-272-2185
Fax: 817-272-2144

EH&S TRAINING COURSES

Online safety training is located on the EH&S training management website: <https://uta-ehs.org>

Bloodborne Pathogens for Laboratory Research Personnel
Bloodborne Pathogens (Non-Research)
BioSafety Level 2
On-Site Biohazardous Waste Management
Vaccinia Virus
Laser Safety
Radiation Awareness
Radiation Producing Machine
Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Academic
Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Non-Academic
Fire Alarm Device

Back Injury Prevention
Confined Space Entry Awareness
Hand & Power Tool Safety
Hearing Conservation
Lockout/Tagout
Respiratory Protection
Class C Underground Storage Tank
Defensive Driving Awareness
12 & 15 Passenger Van
Powered Industrial Truck (Forklift)

Call us at 817-272-2185 to schedule specific trainings not available online:

Radioactive Materials Hot Work Safety Fire Extinguisher Respirator Fit Testing

DRIVING UTA VEHICLES

Defensive Driving Awareness - This online course must be completed every 3 years to remain an authorized driver of UTA vehicles. Additionally, an individual driving record check (MVR) must be updated annually.

12 & 15 Passenger Van Training: Take the online course first. A behind-the-wheel driving test is also required and will be conducted on the dates and times below at the EH&S office, 500 Summit Ave. Drivers must have already passed the Defensive Driving Course and have a current approved driving record check (MVR) to attend. ***Class size is limited, so please call 817-272-2185 to register ahead of time.***

Oct. 11—10:00am
Oct. 17—2:00pm

Nov. 15—10:00am
Nov. 28—2:00pm

Dec. 7—2:00pm
Dec. 13—2:00pm