LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

LIFE LINE

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DIRECTOR'S LOG

Our Fall Semester is well underway and activity levels are high on and around campus. A new expansion of Tiger Stadium is open for business, and we extend our congratulations to all those who managed the construction in a safe and effective manner!

With increased activity, traffic, as usual, is slowing us down. The southbound traffic on Burbank is much better now that the middle turn lane has been carved out. It is a little tight, but so far seems to make a big difference in the flow of traffic, both incoming and out-going.

Pedestrians on campus streets should use crosswalks, but often don't. So be careful driving around campus. Since we are a walking campus, I yield right of way pedestrians, even when they are outside of the crosswalks. On major streets, such as Nicholson or Highland, stopping to let a pedestrian cross where there is no crosswalk could create a greater hazard, so good judgment is important in these locations, both on the part of the pedestrian and the driver. Be especially careful at night and in inclement conditions. Always drive defensively, using good judgment.

Recently problems have plagued Federally-run laboratories performing biological research. After three safety breaches involving pathogens in government laboratories, the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP) has requested a "safety stand-down," and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has designated September as National Biosafety Stewardship Month. Both efforts encourage government labs and *nongovernment labs that receive federal funding* to review practices and improve inventories of infectious agents and toxins. Many LSU labs fall in the latter category.

Problems in the federal labs include:

Earlier this year, a sample of low-pathogenic avian flu virus was unintentionally contaminated with a far more pathogenic H5N1 strain in a Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) lab, then shipped to a Department of Agriculture facility.

Later, CDC scientists failed to properly inactivate anthrax bacteria samples before moving the material to labs operating with fewer safety precautions.

And then in July, vials of smallpox and other pathogens were discovered in an unsecured FDA laboratory on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Md.

The military term "stand down" has gotten to be a popular attention grabber: The Veterans Administration announced a 90 day "stand down" after problems there, and OSHA has conducted a "National Safety Stand-Down" on preventing falls in construction in June. The military term normally means a secession of activity for a period of time to focus on safety; the recent use of the term generally means "continue to work, but focus attention on preventing recurrence".

We are following up on our end, planning a new initiative to identify and inventory the biological agents and toxins located in freezers and other storage areas on campus, and to renew our emphasis on safety training and safe conduct in our research and

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Safety Data Sheets- *Flash point*

Although the word "FLASH POINT" is used in the title of a television series involving a police tactical unit, it is an important term to understand when working with materials.

Flash point is used to help characterize the fire hazard of flammable and combustible liquids. The flash point of a material is '*the lowest temperature the liquid would vaporize to form an ignitable mixture in air.'*

If the liquid temperature was below the flash point, it would **NOT form an ignitable mixture.

Flash point is **different** from *Auto-ignition Temperature* since the flash point temperature requires an ignition source to burn, and the auto ignition source does not require an ignition source to burn.

If a liquid's flash point is 100 °F or less, it is classified as a ***flammable liquid***; if greater than 100 °F, it is classified as ***combustible liquid***.

Here are some examples:

Material	**Flash point**	**Classification**	**Auto-Ignition Temperature**
Gasoline	-40 °F	Flammable	475 °F
Diesel	149 °F	Combustible	410 °F
Methanol	52 °F	Flammable	867 °F
Ethanol	55 °F	Flammable	689 °F
Vegetable oil	200 °F +	Combustible	621 °F

**Additional fire hazards occur when the liquid is used in spray cleaning or application processes. Fine mists of flammable and combustible liquids are ignitable below their flash point temperatures. In addition, since mists and droplets behave like vapors, flame propagation may occur if adequate concentration exists, which can explode within a confined or non-ventilated space.

Check your *Safety Data Sheet* (SDS) for the Flammable properties of the materials you handle. [The SDS formerly was called the *Material Safety Data Sheet* (MSDS) but has been changed to comply with global terminology, thus the new SDS.]

Emergency Planning and Response

In the event of an emergency within a building, take the following actions:

* Remain calm and do not enter a dangerous area;
* Begin evacuating the building; go to designated assembly area
* Call Campus Police (911) and provide information pertaining to the emergency;
* Follow directions of floor monitors;

Stay out until police give the **OK** to re-enter the building.

Each Building Coordinator should review their building emergency plan on an annual basis to ensure:

1. The plan is accurate,
2. Emergency equipment (fire extinguishers, Alarm panels, etc.) function properly and
3. Evacuation Floor Monitors and building occupants are trained in the plan and proper emergency response.

Take a few minutes to check and inspect your tires to prevent being stranded on the road!!

* Proper Tire inflation
* Adequate tread depth

Bloodborne Pathogens

Some diseases such as Hepatitis (types A, B, and C), HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), syphilis and others, are spread through exposure to body fluids. Infection can occur by sharing contaminated needles, sexual contact with an infected partner, accidental cuts from sharp objects that are contaminated, getting blood or body fluids on skin with an open sore or cut, or in eyes and mouth. At LSU, Policy Statement 65 provides guidance on activities involving human body fluids.

Treat all blood and body fluids as potentially infected

- Use gloves, eye protection, and protective clothing and avoid contact with body fluids.
- Wash hands with antibacterial soap after contact.
- Contact trained personnel to respond and properly clean and decontaminate area after an accident.
- Frequent hand washing is the best defense against spreading infection.

DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving crashes killed more than 3,000 people and injured nearly 416,000 in 2010.

People under the age of 20 are involved in more fatal crashes due to distraction than any other group.

Reaction time is delayed for a driver talking on a cell phone as much as it is for a driver who is legally drunk.

Drivers who send or receive text messages focus their attention away from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. At 55 mph, this is equivalent to driving the length of a football field blindfolded.

More texting leads to more crashes. With each additional 1 million text messages, fatalities from distracted driving rose more than 75%.

http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3416distracted-driving-flyer.pdf

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instruction.

A new study from the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration analyzed the scope of substance use disorders among full-time workers. It found that 10.8 million full-time workers – 9.5 percent of the nation's full-time workforce – had substance use disorders. The same was true for 3.3 million part-time workers, which comprised 12 percent of the part-time workforce. It is difficult to gauge the extent of this problem, and this study helps put the problem in proper perspective. These statistics means that from a force of 80 people, you will likely have eight or nine employees who have substance abuse problems. Having employees who are free from the effects of substance abuse is vitally important to safety, so these statistics are "eye openers".

As we progress through the football and holiday seasons, please keep safety first in all your activities and travels!

Emergency Telephone Numbers

LSU Police
578-3231 or 911 from campus phone

Facility Services
578-3186 (Non-emergency)
578-2327 (24 hr. emergency)

Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS)
578-5640

Radiation Safety
578-2747

++++ Safety Meetings ++++

As a minimum, Department Safety meetings should be conducted Quarterly. This newsletter can be used as safety meeting material. Please route through your department via e-mail and request a "return receipt," or circulate with "sign-in" sheet containing printed name/date/ and initial.

Office of Environmental Health and Safety (E.H.S.)
201C Copy and Mail Center
South Stadium Drive
578-5640
www.ehs.lsu.edu

Mike Durham, Director
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Quinesha Morgan, Biological Safety Coordinator
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Thomas Walsh, Health and Safety Officer
Lisa Pepitone, Environmental and Emergency Response Coordinator
Jason LeJeune-Manager, Laboratory Safety
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