**Speed Trailer – SLOW DOWN**

By: Paula Sweitzer

For those of you traveling Bluff Street, you should have noticed the speed trailer that shows your driving speed. The Labor/Management Safety Committee rented this unit in an effort to slow down our drivers. The speed trailer is a good reminder to our drivers that our 15 mph speed limit continues across campus. This speed trailer is also collecting data, such as high speed, low speed, car/truck, time of day, etc. The data will be used to increase driver safety across campus and decrease distractions.

Distracted driving is easily preventable – put down your phone, quit changing radio channels, and no eating.

**ALL CAMPUS ROADS ARE 15 MPH**

**City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Fire - Inspection Program**

By: Paula Sweitzer

Facilities Management and EHS have been working with a fire inspector from the City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Fire. The goal of these inspections is to maintain occupant safety and prevent fires from occurring. All of our campus buildings will be inspected.

Items covered during inspections include:

- Extension cords
- Electrical – electric panel access
- Excess storage hazards/stacked storage
- Inspection of systems – fire alarms and fire extinguishers
- Access issues – corridors
- Fire hydrant caps
- Free and clear egress
Evacuations Fall 2016

By: Ryan Reilly

In early September we were fortunate to have accommodating weather during the emergency evacuation drills. Occupants of the buildings are aware of life safety on campus and importance of the drills - it showed in the expedient time frame in which they egress out of the building and to the designated gathering points. The staff and faculty running around in the bright green vests – the Floor Marshals do a terrific job notifying occupants on proper egress paths, clearing the offices and classrooms, assisting handicapped individuals, and notifying EHS of any procedural issues or alarm system malfunctions. The coordinated efforts between Facilities Management employees and supervisors, Residence Life staff, Public Safety, and the Floor Marshals advance a common goal of life safety at Duquesne University.

However, distractions that can hinder a timely evacuation. For example, we have noticed many occupants with earbuds do not hear and/or are missing the drill. If you notice this behavior during a drill or real event, please kindly alert the person to a safe egress route of travel to exit the building. Additionally, during a drill a faculty member had to be asked to leave because he did not want to end his phone call. In the event of an actual emergency, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire can issue a citation for $1,000.00 for disregarding an evacuation.

Please see the Emergency Management section “Emergency Evacuation Guidelines” on our website at www.duq.edu/ehs for more information on gathering points.

Laboratory Word Search

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<thead>
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Scheduled Power Outage - Mellon Hall

By: Paula Sweitzer

Mellon Hall is scheduled for an electrical power outage on Tuesday, November 22nd. This is a full-day outage and only authorized personnel will be allowed inside the building. This is similar to last year’s planned outage and EHS will be asking each lab to complete a checklist to assist the labs in shutting down. EHS will require completed checklists be hung on the doors of each lab on Monday, November 21st.

These planned outages are important for routine maintenance of the electrical switchgears that power Mellon Hall. Mellon Hall was constructed in 1966 and some of this equipment must be replaced to prevent unexpected outages.

The assistance and cooperation of each lab is very important!

Laboratory Safety Committee Meeting

By: Paula Sweitzer

The Lab Safety Committee met on Thursday, September 29th. Members were present from each of the following departments: Pharmacy, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Anatomy, Nursing, Animal Care, and Facilities Management. This committee meets on a quarterly basis and reviews incidents, suggestions, updates, and corrective actions relating to our labs on campus.

Topics discussed included: radiation safety updates (surveys, inventory, license, etc.), lab safety items (recent incidents/accidents, planned electrical outage in Mellon Hall, ventilation upgrades in Receiving, and weekly inspection overviews), campus safety items (speed trailer, company inspection program, and AED program updates), and Fire Safety (evacuation drills and hands-on fire extinguisher training).

Lab Safety Reminders:

- **Chemical Security** – keep your laboratory doors shut and locked when not attended.
- **Odors** – start by flushing your sinks (cup sinks, floor drains, etc.)
- **PPE** – remove PPE before using the elevators, stairwells, restrooms, etc.
- **Inventory** – maintain a current chemical inventory. EHS asked for updates once a year, but each lab should maintain the inventory throughout the year.
- **Labeling** – label everything.
- **Housekeeping** – remove clutter and maintain clear walkways.
Winter Safety – Snow Shoveling

By: Bob Haushalter

With the Old Farmer’s Almanac predicting an above normal snowfall for 2016 – 2017 winter, It’s a good time to talk about the hazards of shoveling snow.

People can be injured or die in snow shoveling incidents. For example, in February 2015, 18 people in Chicago died within a two week period from snow shoveling-related incidents. The age range was from 40 – 75 years old.

Risk Factors?

Several factors are included:

- previous medical (known & unknown) conditions
- several months of inactivity prior to shoveling can put too much strain on the heart
- the cold can make the blood clot more easily
- the cold can constrict the arteries which decreases blood supply

Here are some tips from the National Safety Council:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking
- Take it slow and stretch before you begin
- Shovel only fresh, powdery snow; it’s lighter
- Push the snow rather than lifting it
- If you do lift the snow, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel
- Lift with your legs, not your back
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion

Pesticide crossword puzzle

1. Pesticides can enter your body through your ___, eyes, or lungs.
2. ___ can cause skin and eye irritation, as well as dermatitis.
3. To stay safe when working with pesticides, read and follow all chemical container ___ directions.
4. It is important to understand the meaning behind posted ___ and placards and to follow their instructions.
5. Water ___ wastes must be separated from other chemicals.
6. If someone becomes ill from pesticides, get as much information as you can including active ___.
7. When transporting pesticides, you should keep a hazardous materials ___ kit in your vehicle at all times.
8. In case of a pesticide spill, follow the three “C’s” ___: contain, and cleanup.
9. ___ means a prescribed hazard warning notice on the outer package.
10. ___ means the required words are written on the side of the outer package.
11. Pesticides that cannot be legally used must be disposed of as a ___ waste.
The Safety Chronicle

Fire Extinguisher Training 2016

By: Ryan Reilly

The annual fire extinguisher training was held on Friday, September 9, 2016. A fire extinguisher seems like a simple pressurized cylinder, but it can save lives and protect property. Fire spreads rapidly, especially in the presence of flammable and oxidizing chemicals in laboratories. A small fire that is extinguished in its incipient stage greatly reduces the chance of occupants suffering from smoke inhalation, burns, displacement, and property and equipment loss.

The A, B, C, D, and K designations for fire classes were explained as: ordinary combustibles (burn to ashes); solvents and greases (barrels); electrical (current); combustible metals (dangerous); and potassium acetate (kitchen). Fire extinguishers are specific to the location and type of materials present. At Duquesne University consistent locations for placement are near the entry and exit of stairwells and next to the doors and fume hoods in laboratories. This is so you may exit if the fire becomes engulfing and the alarm pull box can be initiated.

In order to familiarize one with a fire extinguisher, participants were given the opportunity to extinguish a live fire with a water mist or carbon dioxide extinguisher. They extinguished the fire with the P-A-S-S method. This stands for PULL the pin, AIM at the base of the fire, SQUEEZE the lever, and SWEEP from side to side. This training has instilled greater confidence in technique and procedure to extinguish a fire for over 159 participants. We would like to thank the Pharmacy and Chemistry departments for their leadership - they make this mandatory for graduate students, faculty, and staff. Remember if you are in a situation with a fire - don’t pass out, PASS a fire extinguisher.
Ventilation Upgrades - Mellon Hall Basement (cont.)

By: Paula Sweitzer

Over the summer there were several upgrades to the ventilation system in our Receiving Department (B12 Mellon Hall). This houses our bulk solvent room and hazardous waste room. The most noticeable addition is the snorkel arms in the bulk solvent room. These snorkel arms minimize the inhalation hazard associated with the pumping of chemicals. There is one snorkel on each side of the room and they can easily be manipulated near the vapor source for safe dispensing. Both snorkels are on at all times and continuously extracting vapors from the room.

Other upgrades include new motors, painting, new shelving, and upgrades to the HVAC system.

During the upgrades, there was much disturbance for the labs. Thank you to the labs for your patience during this transition.

Safety Rules – Bulk Solvent Room

- Only one person allowed to pump at a time
- User must move and adjust the snorkel before each use
- User must be diligent about location of snorkel arms
Wanted

Empty 5-gallon drums and 1-gallon glass bottles

Please drop them off in Mellon Hall, B-12 Receiving or bring them on Wednesdays during waste collection

Fact and Figures About Smoke Alarms

- In 2009-2013, smoke alarms sounded in more than half (53%) of the home fires reported to U.S. fire departments.

- Three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).

- No smoke alarms were present in almost two out of every five (38%) home fire deaths.

- The death rate per 100 reported home fires was more than twice as high in homes that did not have any working smoke alarms compared to the rate in homes with working smoke alarms (1.18 deaths vs. 0.53 deaths per 100 fires).

- During fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate, almost half (46%) of the smoke alarms had missing or disconnected batteries.

- Dead batteries caused one-quarter (24%) of the smoke alarm failures.

Source: NFPA's "Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires" report, September 2015