Evacuation Drill Results - Fall 2015

By: Ryan Reilly

The results are in and all buildings passed during the fall emergency evacuation drills. The purpose of the drills is to uphold life safety standards for building occupants. They enable students, faculty, and staff to become familiar with the exit routes and gathering points. Most buildings have a primary and secondary exit route, which are detailed on evacuation maps posted in each building. Please take the time to become familiar with the exit routes if you are new to a building/floor. Administering drills permits us to determine if alarms, strobes, speakers, control panels, annunciators, and other devices function in a proper manner. The drills also offer Floor Marshals practice and preparation for an emergency.

Although all the buildings passed, we noticed technological devices distracting the occupants and hindering the flow of egress. Often students did not hear the alarm because of earbuds and headphones. We cannot control this activity, but want to assure no one is left behind. We ask that if this behavior is observed to kindly alert the occupant to evacuate, as every second matters in a real emergency.

We also observed three situations where occupants did not initially evacuate. In the first instance a faculty stayed in the office with his door closed. In the second instance a faculty held the class. In the third instance the faculty left the room, but the students stayed in the classroom. Disregarding evacuation signals endangers yourself and emergency responders entering the building. With the exception of disabled persons, all occupants must participate in evacuation drills. In the event of an actual emergency, the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire can issue a citation for $1,000 if an occupant refuses to evacuate.

The EHS department thanks all of the participants, Facilities maintenance, and Floor Marshals volunteers for making Duquesne University a safe campus.
Winter Weather Safety

Do you know the difference between a winter storm warning, watch, and advisory?

The National Weather Service (NWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have teamed up and put together a Winter Weather Safety PowerPoint. The PowerPoint covers topics such as snow & ice, blizzards, freezing rain, cold temperatures, wind, flooding, and fog.

- For more information, please visit [www.weather.gov/winter](http://www.weather.gov/winter).

Vendor Show

By: Paula Sweitzer

EHS, along with Public Safety, had a table at the recent Vendor Show on November 9th. Our table was full of valuable information, such as information on our AED program and AED locations on campus, Battery Recycling, Pedestrian Safety, Distracted Driving, Safety Suggestion Forms, etc. Public Safety had information on two programs, the Run, Hide, Fight and the Look-Up Walk Smart Campaign. This was a great time to talk to our customers!

From left: Paula Sweitzer, Lee Speer, Michael Iannello, Breelyn McClerand, Ryan Reilly, and Bob Haushalter.
Winter Driving – Pittsburgh

By: Bob Haushalter

Where is winter? With daytime temperatures in the mid-50’s and sometimes 60’s in mid-December, I have to ask – where is winter??

Although we have not had the traditional snow falls in Pittsburgh, there were several car accidents due to one night of freezing temperatures. I am talking about freezing roads on bridges and overpasses. So I thought it might be a good refresher to go over winter driving and bridges.

- The freezing wind strikes a bridge above, below and on both sides. It is losing heat from all sides.
- Bridges have no way to trap heat, so they will continually lose heat and freeze shortly after temperatures in the atmosphere hit the freezing point. Roads can maintain heat longer than bridges.
- Bridges in Pittsburgh are built with steel and concrete, both of which are good heat conductors. This means that any heat that the bridge has, moves through the bridge to the surface where the heat is lost through the air flow around it.

Some things to think about:

- The bridges will freeze before the roads
- Pittsburgh is the “City of Bridges” (a total of 446 bridges are in the city of Pittsburgh, officially the city with the most bridges in the world, three more than former world leader Venice, Italy.)
- There are only so many PennDot salt trucks & employees to maintain the bridges

Be careful, be alert and slow down before driving over bridges during freezing temperatures!

AED Training

Currently we have 43 AED units across campus...have you been trained on how to properly use one? Recently, EHS organized five training sessions for our Floor Marshals to receive AED training by our Public Safety Department; this included a hands-only CPR segment.

This type of training is available to all folks on campus, by choosing one of the following options:

- Public Safety periodically holds basic CPR classes; look for an upcoming training on MyLead, called “CPR - Family and Friends”.
- Watch this video of our Public Safety Sergeant: AED and CPR Instruction.
- Contact Lee Speer (x4935 or speer@duq.edu) to organize a similar training for your group/department/floor. To become certified in CPR, there would be a $25 fee/person and the training would take 2-3 hours.
Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls

By: Paula Sweitzer

Prevention: most STFs can be prevented by eliminating workplace hazards and by behavior modification (people taking the proper action to work safely). What can you do to prevent STFs:

- Wear footwear that is appropriate for the conditions outside.
- Clean footwear of mud, snow, etc. when entering a building.
- Be aware of changes in elevation and changes in walking surfaces.
- Walk, don’t run through buildings.
- When carrying a load, make sure you can see over and around it.
- Clean, correct, remove or report unsafe conditions.
- Do not allow equipment, tools, materials or other obstacles to accumulate in aisles or walkways.
- Keep desk and file cabinet drawers closed when not in use.
- Always use a ladder or step stool.
- Always use handrails when available.
- Maintain floors clean, free of water, oil or grease.

Fire Protection Impairments

By: Paula Sweitzer

Definitions:

Fire Protection System – includes sprinkler system, standpipe system, fire pumps, fire alarm systems, and fire suppression systems.

Impairment – an impairment of any fire protection system or equipment occurs when that protection system, alarm, or detection device is removed from service partially or completely.

Impairment Procedures to follow before, during and after an impairment.

- **BEFORE** – prepare area and notify FM Global (submit eTag).
- **DURING** – this is the time that we are most susceptible to fires - prohibit smoking and hotwork, begin fire watch.
- **AFTER** – restoring, testing, securing and communicating.

Hot Work

Definition:

Hot work is any work using open flames or sources of heat that could ignite materials in the work area; it is any temporary or permanent operation that produces flames, sparks or heat. Hot work is not necessarily an occasional occurrence; it is often conducted as part of production processes in normal manufacturing operations (FM Global).

Examples:

- Burning, welding, brazing, torch cutting, soldering, grinding, open flames, etc.

Hot Work Permit:

The Hot Work permit must be completed prior to each hot work operation; they are issued for the specific job being done and for a specific time period. The time period is usually for the working shift, but may never exceed twenty-four hours. The completed permit must be displayed in the hot work area.

Hot Work Procedures:

There are safe work practices to take before, during and after Hot Work is performed. The area must be clear of all ignitable liquids, dust, lint and oily deposits and any combustible materials within 35ft of the operation. A fire watch must be present to monitor the area for the possible development of a fire. The fire watch must extend for at least 60 minutes after the Hot Work is complete.
Environmental Health & Safety

Web: www.duq.edu/ehs
Email: safety@duq.edu
Main Phone: 412-396-4763
Blackboard Path: www.duq.edu/blackboard
Under “My Communities”

Winter Safety Quiz

1. If you are using a fuel portable heater in an enclosed space, you should be aware of _______.
   A. Sodium Hydroxide       B. Sulfur       C. Carbon Monoxide       D. Noise

2. The first symptoms of frostbite are:
   A. “Pins and needles” sensation       B. Red skin and flaky       C. Wax buildup

3. You cannot get hypothermia unless you already have frostbite
   True       False

4. Which of these is an early sign of hypothermia?
   A. Profuse sweating       B. Lack of coordination and slurred speech       C. Ringing of ears

5. If your vehicle encounters “black ice” and starts to spin out of control, what should you do?
   A. Engage the parking brake and pump the foot brake off and on until you regain traction
   B. Keep the steering wheel straight regardless of which way the vehicle is spinning
   C. Decelerate by taking your foot off the accelerator and smoothly turn the steering wheel in the direction you want to go.

Mellon Hall Outage - Thanks

By: Paula Sweitzer

Thank you to all involved with the Mellon Hall Electrical Outage held on 11/23/2015. Thanks to the labs for their participation and collaboration in planning and conducting the recent electrical outage in Mellon hall. This was a huge undertaking by our Facilities Management group, but the outage went as scheduled without any major hick-ups. This outage has better prepared us for an unannounced event and was a learning experience for all.

Article Ideas....
EHS encourages suggestions and comments.
Contact Ryan Reilly x1506 or reillyr1@duq.edu

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