



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

As we are reaching the end of this semester, I would like to thank everyone who participated in celebrating this year's October Safety Month Events. As always, we partnered with our local public safety agencies and campus stakeholders to host events at the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, Reitz Union, Department of Chemistry, Health Science Center, and UFRAC Lake Nona.

We are excited to distribute the last EH&S Newsletter of 2023, which covers a range of health and safety topics including a winter holiday safety guide, updates to the EH&S decontamination form for laboratory equipment, a completion update on Malachowsky Hall, pertinent information about how to report an injury or incident, lab manager safety training, the new Chemical Hygiene Plan (EHS869) training course, tips for safe driving, safety reminders, and staff spotlights.

As we approach winter break, the EH&S division wishes everyone the best of health and happiness this holiday season. Don't forget to consider these [Winter Holiday Safety Tips](#) while enjoying your vacation with your family and friends in a safe and healthy environment.

Happy Holidays and be safe!

Regards,  
Shailendra Singh



## WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY GUIDE



Download our comprehensive  
*Winter Holiday Safety* guide below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

The holidays are a time for people to come together and celebrate with friends and family. Yet, to ensure that festivities remain filled with happiness, it's essential to prioritize safety.

Whether you're enjoying a local holiday or embracing a special cultural tradition, let's embrace the spirit of joy responsibly. Take a moment to reflect on safety guidelines in the following areas:

- Candles
- Live Garland and Trees
- Lights
- Holiday decorations
- Fireworks
- Space heaters

## DECONTAMINATION FORM UPDATES

PROCESS	PDF	ID	PI	STATUS	EQUIPMENT	TYPES	REASON	LOCATION
Process		83	Grassano, Ashley	PENDING PI CERTIFICATION	something crazy		Closeout	Linton E. Grinter Hall
		78	Grassano, Ashley	PENDING EHS CERTIFICATION	4910AA123479 - SPRAY BOOTH		Disposal	Head House

The process to submit the decontamination form for laboratory equipment has recently been updated. Users can now access all submitted forms through a single place using our new [online portal](#). The portal allows users to:

1. Approve or deny forms by clicking on the green Process button.
2. Download a copy of previously submitted forms.
3. View the approval status of each form.

Click below to learn more about equipment decontamination.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## MALACHOWSKY HALL UPDATE

Malachowsky Hall For Data Science and Information Technology, UF's newest engineering building, spans 263,000 square feet and is positioned to redefine research, applications, and transformative advancements in the cutting-edge field of Artificial Intelligence. The building can have close to 4,000 people occupying it at any time. It will serve as a multi-disciplinary collaborative facility supporting medicine, pharmacy, and engineering. It is an impressive building with many new safety features including building automation, fire curtains, fire doors, and smoke control for exits and elevators.



EH&S Facility Support Services has been working closely with the contractors, engineers, and architects for the past three years to help identify any code compliance deficiencies and to ensure the facility is safe to occupy. This building's design is unique such that it is open from top to bottom, but if a fire were to occur the building's automation system would activate all the safety features and compartmentalize the open spaces which will allow for the safe evacuation of the occupants.

This new addition to the UF skyline is currently limited in occupancy while the remaining work is being completed and is scheduled to be fully open in January 2024. Buildings of this magnitude will always have changes being made to support the research. EH&S Facility Support Services will be there to help meet the needs of this magnificent facility for years to come.

[FACILITY SUPPORT SERVICES](#)

# REPORT AN INJURY OR INCIDENT

Here at the University of Florida, we strive to provide a safe, healthy, and thriving learning, living, and working environment. Unfortunately, sometimes injuries may occur. Here are a few important steps you should remember if you are injured.

1. Please seek medical attention **first**, if needed by calling **352-392-1111** or **911**.
2. If in a lab, report the injury as soon as possible to the principal investigator or lab manager.
3. Contact the **Needlestick Hotline** if needed at **352-265-2727**.
4. Employees and/or Supervisors are **required** to report employee injuries and incidents for investigation. First contact **AmeriSys** at **1-800-455-2079** or **UFHR Workers' Compensation** at **352-392-4940**.
5. Once you have reported to AmeriSys, complete this [form](#) to report the incident to EH&S. Once reported, a follow-up will be conducted accordingly.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

<p><b>Fire/Emergencies</b> 911</p> <p><b>EH&amp;S</b> 352-392-1591</p> <p><b>UF Police</b> 352-392-1111</p> <p><b>Needlestick Hotline</b> 352-265-2727</p> <p><b>AmeriSys</b> (Workers' Comp) 1-800-455-2079</p> <p><b>Other:</b> _____</p>	<p>Is the injury serious or life threatening?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"><div style="text-align: center;"><p>Yes</p><p>↓</p><p>Call 911</p><p>↓</p></div><div style="text-align: center;"><p>No</p><p>↓</p><p>Apply first aid</p><p>↓</p></div></div> <p><b>Report injuries to AmeriSys by calling 1-800-455-2079.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Report all incidents to:</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"></div>
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Please contact EH&S at **352-392-1591** if you have additional questions. Click below to access the form.

**CLICK HERE**

## LAB MANAGER BOOTCAMP TRAINING



Last month EH&S joined forces with the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering to conduct a comprehensive Lab Manager Safety Training program. This collaboration reflects a proactive approach toward enhancing safety protocols within laboratory environments. This boot camp training covered information about general safety, chemical safety, physical safety, fire safety, and hazardous waste requirements. This boot camp training was designed to encourage lab managers to participate in hands-on activities in which they practice chemical compatibility, identification of chemical hazards by using a safety data sheet (SDS), and how to properly use a fire extinguisher by using a fire simulator.

We encourage any department that is interested to schedule or learn more by contacting EH&S at [labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu](mailto:labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu).

**CHEMICAL AND LAB SAFETY**

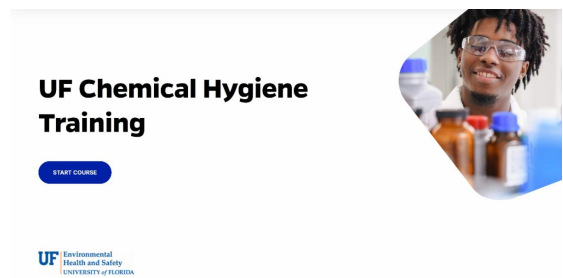
## NEW CHEMICAL HYGIENE PLAN TRAINING

It is our pleasure to announce that the new Chemical Hygiene Plan training (EHS869) is now live and active on myTraining. This new training is a major overhaul of the old Chemical Hygiene training and is more comprehensive and engaging than its predecessor. It is a new one-time training, and therefore, **required for all persons entering and working with hazardous chemicals in laboratories.**

The training is approximately 60 minutes in length and will comply with the requirements set forth by the OSHA Laboratory Standard. Please note that this training is required by OSHA, and the University of Florida.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact EH&S at **352-392-1591**.

Click below to access the course on myTraining.



The banner features a woman in a lab coat and safety glasses smiling, with laboratory equipment in the background. The text reads: **UF Chemical Hygiene Training**, with a **START COURSE** button and the **UF Environmental Health and Safety UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA** logo.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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## DRIVE SAFE, SAVE ON PREMIUMS

Safe driving can go a long way in keeping you safe and auto premiums in check. Sometimes it's the obvious things that can have the largest impact. Here are the five most common car accidents and tips on how to help avoid them.

1. **Rear-end Collisions** – Keep a safe distance from other vehicles and don't get distracted.
2. **Parked Car Damage** – Do not park in the busiest part of the lot and maximize the area of the parking space.
3. **Single Vehicle Accidents** – Drive appropriately and slow down for inclement weather.
4. **Crashes at intersections** – Practice defensive driving and take a moment after the light changes.
5. **Backing Collisions** – When possible, avoid backing up, assess your surroundings, and never do anything that can distract you while backing.

Let's face it: accidents happen. However, knowing the top causes of car accidents can help you avoid these situations whenever possible.



[DEFENSIVE DRIVING TRAINING](#)

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## SAFETY REMINDERS

**Are you closing, vacating, relocating, transferring, or renovating a laboratory?**

Notification to EH&S is required **thirty days (30) in advance**. Please report lab closeout.

**Are you planning to purchase lab equipment?**

Lab appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, 3D printers, heaters, and microwaves need prior approval from EH&S before being purchased. Please use the Equipment Purchasing Approval Form to submit requests.

## Are you generating hazardous waste?

Do not fill liquid waste containers completely to the top. **Overfilling can be hazardous to University students, employees, visitors, facilities, and the environment.** Please leave a small amount of head space to allow for expansion of the liquid due to temperature changes (especially during transport).

- 20 L × 15 °C temp increase = as much as 400 mL volume increase for common solvents.
- Best Practices – Leave a 5% void in cans and carboys.
- Best Practices – Only fill 4 L bottles to shoulder.

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



### Kristen Catalano

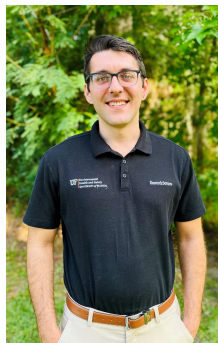
Receptionist

Business Office - Environmental Health and Safety

EH&S is turning the spotlight on Kristen Catalano, our new EH&S receptionist. Her job responsibilities consist of answering and directing phone calls to the appropriate personnel and inputting any orders for pest management. She is currently working on scanning older documents to be saved digitally for future reference.

[CONTACT](#)

Her family moved to Gainesville this summer to be near their daughter, Victoria, who is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year at UF. Her son, Christian, graduated college this past May and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the Army Reserves. Before joining UF, she was the Principal's Secretary and previous Data/ FTE Clerk at Deltona High School in Volusia County. Outside of work she enjoys reading, watching movies, traveling, and spending time with family.



### Christopher Young

EH&S Coordinator III - Occupational Safety/Industrial Hygiene  
Occupational Safety and Risk Management

Congratulations to Chris Young on his promotion to EH&S Coordinator III. His responsibilities in this new role include managing the indoor air quality (IAQ) program, asbestos and lead program, respiratory protection program, and providing essential services and support to our campus partners in IFAS, Facilities Services, and Housing.

[CONTACT](#)

Chris holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography, Resources, and Environmental Studies from Texas State University, and a Master's degree in Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of South Florida. In his free time, he enjoys loyally catering to his two cats and doing fun activities with his wife.



### Devin Leonard

EH&S Coordinator I

Research Services and Safety

EH&S extends a warm welcome to Devin Leonard, our new EH&S Coordinator I. As an EH&S Coordinator I, Devin conducts lab safety surveys and provides support to UF laboratories. Devin has a Master of Science in Soil and Water Science and has over 10 years of experience working in labs. Devin had previously worked as an Engineer I for the Agriculture and Biology Engineering department.

[CONTACT](#)

Some of her hobbies include knitting, crocheting, and reading all the books she can get her hands on. She also enjoys growing her own food and is exploring methods in plant propagation.

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### Promotions

Chris Young- *EH&S  
Coordinator I to EH&S  
Coordinator III*

Craig Money Penny-  
*Biosafety Coordinator I to  
Biosafety Coordinator II*

### New Hires

Jason Timm – *Radiation Safety Officer*  
Devin Leonard – *EH&S Coordinator I*  
Laurence Prunetti – *Biosafety Coordinator I*  
Gregory Camden – *Hazardous Materials  
Technician*  
Kristen Catalano – *Receptionist*  
Jacob McCartney – *Hazardous Materials  
Specialist I*

### Retirements

Susan Stanford  
Idania Alvarez  
Cathy Sharp  
Gail Roser  
  
*Thank you for your  
many years of service  
at UF!*

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**EHS.UFL.EDU**