



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

EH&S is delighted to announce that CSHEMA has selected the UF Green Lab Certification Program for the 2024 Innovation Award for Resource Enhancement for a Large School. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Craig Moneypenny, the UF Green committee, and everyone involved in developing this outstanding program.

As we approach hurricane season, it's crucial to be prepared for any weather-related emergencies. Please contact the EH&S team for assistance with updating safety protocols, insurance claims, and FEMA tips. Additionally, with the high temperatures we're experiencing, be sure to follow summer safety tips to stay cool and hydrated, especially if you are working outdoors.

It is also essential to address any open lab inspections and overdue corrective actions. If you have items that are 30 days or more past due, the EH&S team will be reaching out to your lab to resolve these issues. Furthermore, if you are hosting minors in your research lab this summer, please submit a Minors Registration form and obtain approval from EH&S before beginning work.

As always, EH&S is here to support you and we are dedicated to ensuring the safety of the UF community. Enjoy your summer with your family and friends and thank you for your continued support in keeping the UF community safe.



Regards,
Shailendra Singh

CSHEMA AWARD FOR UF GREEN LAB CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Recently, the **CSHEMA** Awards Committee selected UF's "*Green Lab Certification Program*" for the 2024 Innovation Award for Resource Enhancement for a Large School. This award recognizes EH&S programs that have reduced costs, increased revenues, improved the environment, and/or developed sustainability initiatives in response to campus needs. This is a great achievement for the UF community and EH&S and evidence of our commitment and collaboration to developing new safety programs and initiatives that will benefit the UF research community.

Many thanks to EH&S Biosafety Coordinator, Dr. Craig Moneyppenny, for his hard work and dedication to leading this program. EH&S started this journey in 2021, launched the program in 2023, and recently recognized three labs on campus as a part of the Green Lab Certification program. The recipients of the CSHEMA Awards will be honored at this year's Annual Conference in July and will also be eligible for a presentation opportunity next year at the Annual CSHEMA Conference.

Please join us in congratulating Craig, the UF Green Lab Committee (GLC), and everyone involved in this program.



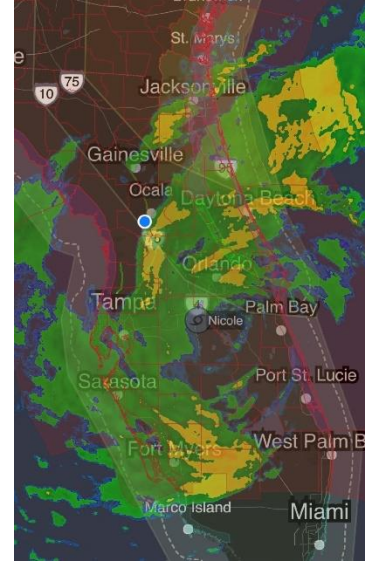
[GREEN LAB INFORMATION](#)

HURRICANE SEASON 2024

It's that time of year – hurricane season officially began on June 1st. Departments should work with **Emergency Management** to review their preparedness plans.

In the event a storm impacts UF sites, here are some insurance and FEMA tips:

- Follow safety protocols mentioned on Emergency Management's website.
- Complete safety audits and where possible, move valuable property out of harm's way.
- Keep track of emergency preparation expenses including employee OT hours worked (if any), equipment, and supplies used (e.g., sandbags, boarding windows, etc.).
- If there is any damage, take all reasonable measures to prevent further damage.
- Follow Procurement guidelines and utilize Quick Response contractors to make emergency repairs.
- For debris removal (trees, sand, silt) track employee hours, equipment, and materials used.
- Notify EH&S Risk Management of any building or property damage so we can **file insurance claims**.



By following the above tips, we can help you recover faster should disaster strike. Click below for the latest hurricane information and additional resources to help you be prepared during this season.

HURRICANE TRACKING

HOT TIPS FOR SAFE SUMMER RESEARCH



- Will your lab be hosting minors for exciting summer research opportunities? Make sure their experience is safe and productive by submitting a **Minors Registration Form** and getting approval from EH&S BEFORE work begins and follow all **UF guidelines for minors in research laboratories!**
- Does your organic acid hang out with an unsavory inorganic crowd? Do oxidizers keep sneaking into the flammable's cabinet? Check your chemical compatibility TODAY! Keep your chemical storage spaces safe by following **these guidelines** and providing appropriate secondary containment and hazard segregation!
- Beat the heat- hit the lab! Doing field research this summer or working in non-climate-controlled environments? Be sure to check out UF's **heat stress policy** to stay safe this summer!
- Make some waves this summer- even labs can go green to benefit the planet! Check out the **Green Lab Guidance** and consider getting your lab **UF Green Lab Certified** this summer and embrace sustainability and environmentally friendly practices!

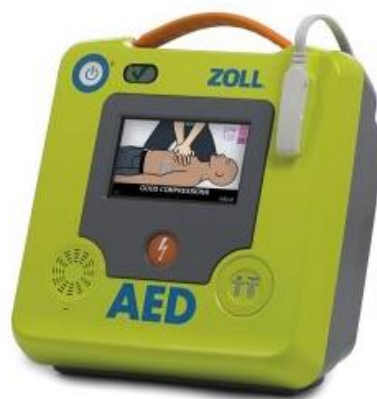
NEW AED MONITORING AND INSPECTION WEBSITE

Introducing COR, a new AED tracking system for the University of Florida developed by Business Affairs Technical Service (BATS) and EH&S.

This system replaces an old third-party platform, enabling collaborative tracking and maintenance of AEDs across campus and State. Accessible and intuitive, the COR site facilitates the management of AEDs for all UF departments, including off-site locations, while collecting valuable data for emergency preparedness.

Users can expect guidance on adding, viewing, editing, and maintaining AEDs, promoting a safer environment. Stay tuned for more information on COR as we prioritize the safety and well-being of the UF community.

Contact aed@ehs.ufl.edu for any questions or additional information.



[AED INFORMATION](#)

SAFETY SURVEYS: OVERDUE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

EH&S has begun issuing email reminders to PIs with overdue corrective actions. In addition to receiving the system-generated emails issued by Gator TRACS, please expect the following notifications if corrective actions remain open:

- Up to 30 days past due – PIs/supervisors will be contacted by the EH&S staff member who conducted your safety survey.
- 30 – 60 days past due – an EH&S Program Manager will follow up on the communication issuing a 2nd reminder.
- 60 - 90 days past due – an EH&S Associate Director will follow up issuing a 3rd reminder.
- If there is still no response after 90 days, EH&S will forward the issue to the Department Chair, director or direct supervisor asking for assistance.

Safety takes a collaborative effort and your assistance in completing necessary tasks is very important to the University of Florida. Thank you for your cooperation!

SAFETY SURVEYS INFORMATION

LAB CLOSEOUT FORM



We have migrated the EH&S lab closeout reporting form to the new EH&S portal [found here](#). It is imperative that lab closeouts are reported to EH&S at least 30 days in advance to prevent injuries and potential fines from regulatory agencies. The closeout process allows us to identify items that need to be addressed, provide guidance to researchers and plan for the disposal of large amounts of chemicals and dangerous items. Lab clean-outs are best when we work together, and your assistance is very

important to us. We need your expertise to evaluate materials in storage and to identify items with missing or unidentifiable labels.

[LAB CLOSEOUT REPORTING FORM](#)

SUMMER SAFETY REMINDERS

- The weather is getting warmer, and many people head to the coast for cooler water or the pool for enjoyment. Remember water safety guidelines and never swim alone.
- Warm weather brings family gatherings and BBQs. Remember to keep a safe zone of 3 feet around cooking appliances.
- Independence Day is approaching! July 4th is a UF holiday. Remember to leave the fireworks to the experts. Over 9,000 people are treated in emergency rooms every 4th of July.
- Remember to stay well hydrated and take frequent breaks during periods of increased temperatures.



[FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION](#)

TRAINED EXTERMINATORS ON CAMPUS

On any given day at UF, there is a team of trained exterminators roaming this campus in search of its prey. The team I'm referring to is the EH&S Pest Management group.

These guys are trained to kill bugs. The team is headed by the Coordinator Brad Files along with technicians Mike Burnett, Gary Eagle, Jimmy Riley, and Cedric Wood. "We are lucky to have the depth of experience that we have in this group," says Files. Most pest control companies typically have one certified operator that manages the branch for daily operations. At UF, we have worked hard to get each of the technicians as much training as possible, which has allowed them to obtain additional certifications.

Out of the 5 personnel on staff, 4 of them are certified operators and hold a total of 10 licenses with over 93 years of total experience. Files stated that sets the bar high at UF and sets the precedent high for other universities to follow. So, when you put in a request for pest service you can feel confident that you're not just getting a technician but a very well-trained professional.



PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

NESTING RED-TAILED HAWKS STIR CONCERNS AT NORMAN HALL

During Springtime, a pair of nesting red-tailed hawks had once again laid claim to a large pine tree near Norman Hall, bringing with them their usual aerial antics, dive-bombing unsuspecting pedestrians and causing feather-fueled chaos.

For the past few years, these majestic birds have nested near Norman Hall, earning them both admiration and caution from the student body. This is likely the same nesting pair as years past because red-tailed hawks mate for life. This year, more reports have surfaced of the protective parents swooping down at passersby, particularly those venturing too close to their nest. As a protected species, the hawks' behavior serves as a reminder of the delicate balance between human activity and wildlife habitat.

Campus officials urge students, faculty, and staff to remain mindful when walking in the area, respecting the hawks' space while enjoying the natural wonders they bring to campus life.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

EH&S Facility Support Services provides construction permitting for all UF facilities across the state. Additionally, we provide the same services to the Alachua County School Board, University of North Florida (UNF), Florida School for the Deaf and Blind (FSDB), and St. Augustine Historic District.

As our major projects on campus wind down, several large off-campus projects have started up, including new dorm facilities at UNF and FSDB as well as a new UF building at Whitney Lab in St. Augustine.



Whitney Lab Photo dated 06/05/2024

Our current major campus projects include the DCP Collaboratory addition to Architecture and Gator Dining with several more in the planning stage.

EH&S Facility Support Services will continue to provide top-quality construction services to all of our customers wherever they are across our beautiful state.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Jason Clements

Biocontainment Coordinator, ARO
Research Services and Safety

EH&S is turning the spotlight on Jason Clements, our new Biocontainment Coordinator in the EH&S biosafety group. Jason has a M.S. in Biomedical Science from Hood College and a B.S. in Biological Sciences from University of Maryland. He will be working towards becoming the campus RO, supporting all level 3 containment facilities. Most recently, Jason was the BSO at Resilience in Alachua. He also has a background in quality assurance, regulatory compliance, and BSL-2/3 quality control laboratory work. Outside of work, Jason enjoys reading widely, gardening poorly, and spending time with his family (dog included).

[CONTACT](#)



Greg Banks
Insurance and Risk Specialist
Occupational Safety & Risk Management

As the new EH&S Insurance and Risk Management Specialist, Greg Banks works closely with several university partners and student organizations by providing support in managing UF's property and casualty insurance policies, and handling claims for the university, and by reviewing upcoming events through a risk management lens. He also provides training to employees regarding the coverages of the insurance policies relevant to the university, how to navigate the claims process, and how to ensure compliance with state regulations. Greg is excited to join his alma mater in his new role, where he can utilize his 19 years of experience in the insurance industry. He loves spending time with his wife and children and enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, and raising two English Mastiffs.

[CONTACT](#)

Service Recognition



Julie Ramsey - 25 Year Service Award



Chris Carlson - 5 Year Service Award

New Hires

Anna Gioseffi - EH&S Coordinator I

Kevin Ross - Safety Technician I

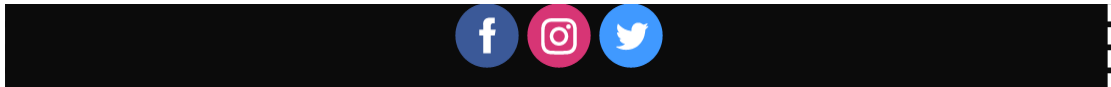
Promotions

Florian Buhlman - *Assistant Radiation Safety Officer*

Jimmy Riley - *Pest Management Coordinator II*

Mithra Varun Bodanapati - OPS

Follow us on social media and help promote #UFSafetyCulture



UF Environmental Health & Safety | 916 Newell Drive, PO Box 112190, Gainesville, FL 32611-2190

#####

To unsubscribe from the EHSQUARTERLYNEWSLETTER list, click the following link:

<https://lists.ufl.edu/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=EHSQUARTERLYNEWSLETTER&A=1>