



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY *Newsletter*

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

For the past three years, EH&S has celebrated Annual Safety Month each October by hosting several campus events. This year, we are organizing six safety events at various places on campus. Please visit these events and learn more about our safety programs and initiatives. We also had a successful CHEMA annual conference this year, where we organized four technical sessions and one professional development session. In addition, our Green Lab Certification program received the 2024 Innovation Award for Resource Enhancement.



Starting September 2024, EH&S is resuming monthly Gator TRACS training sessions for PIs and Lab Managers who need assistance in maintaining their lab rosters, tracking training, completing hazard assessments, and closing corrective actions. Also, our Biosafety office updated the requirements for research compliance involving the use of human derived products in animals.

In addition, we encourage you to take advantage of our ChemSwap program to recycle unused chemicals and free monthly consultation sessions by our lab safety team. As always, we appreciate your continuous support and efforts in keeping the UF community safe.

Regards,
Shailendra Singh

OCTOBER IS OUR THIRD ANNUAL SAFETY MONTH

Each October, EH&S highlights Safety Month by hosting events across campus aimed at raising awareness about safety at home, work, and in our communities. This year, we are organizing six events at Fifield Hall, Reitz Union, Lake Nona, Graham Commons, Scott Family Hall, and Malachowsky Hall.

During this time, we encourage everyone to take proactive steps in preventing accidents and injuries. Whether checking smoke detectors, ensuring workspace safety, practicing safe driving, or maintaining situational awareness, small actions can make a big difference in keeping yourself and others safe.

Join us in promoting a culture of safety by stopping at one of our events listed on the flyer below to learn about safety programs and initiatives, meet our EH&S professionals, and get some free stuff. Together, we can build a safe environment for all.



SAFETY *Month* AWARENESS

**Join EH&S for Exciting
Events Across Campus!**

October Events:

10/1 Safe & Healthy Future w/ Smart Agriculture 11 am - 1 pm <i>Fifield Hall</i>	10/23 Safe & Smart Student Living 11 am - 1 pm <i>Graham Commons</i>
10/9 Protect, Preserve, & Prevent 10 am - 2 pm <i>Reitz Union</i>	10/25 Picture Perfect Chemistry 9:30 - 11:30 am <i>Scott Family Hall</i>
10/15 Advancing Science & Protecting Lives 11 am - 1 pm <i>Lake Nona</i>	10/28 Safety in Every Step 11 am - 1 pm <i>Malachowsky Hall</i>

What to Expect:

- Meet Environmental Health & Safety staff
- Learn about our safety programs & initiatives
- Grab some free stuff!

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EH&S SHINES AT 2024 CSHEMA CONFERENCE



2024 was a special year for the UF EH&S team at the annual CSHEMA conference held in Tampa, FL on July 27-31. The University of Florida was well represented at the conference with several presentations and technical sessions conducted by our staff.

A special thanks to our presenters:

- Building an Information Action Strategy: Dr. Shailendra Singh
- Greenhouse Safety Program: Cindy Mercado and Devin Leonard
- Chemical Safety Levels: Cindy Mercado, Dr. Nicholas Cavallaro, and Dylan Miller
- Role of Embedded Safety Professionals at Academic Institutions: James Fleetwood
- 4-Hour PDS - Building an Effective Safety Program: Cindy Mercado

In addition, the University of Florida was granted an Innovation award (Resource Enhancement for a Large School) for the development and implementation of the Green Laboratory Program, spearheaded by Dr. Craig Moneypenny.

PERSONALIZED LAB SAFETY SUPPORT

Did you know that EH&S Lab Safety offers free monthly consultation visits right in your department? This is an excellent chance to get personalized guidance on various lab safety topics.

Whether you need help with corrective actions from a recent inspection, assistance with Gator TRACS, or have questions about lab safety, our Lab Safety team is here to assist you.



To make the most of this opportunity, simply email us at labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu to schedule your one-on-one consultation. Do not miss out on this valuable resource for maintaining a safe and compliant lab environment!

[CHEMICAL & LAB SAFETY](#)

CUT COSTS AND RECYCLE CHEMICALS WITH CHEMSWAP

EH&S would like to remind UF labs on main campus about **ChemSwap**, a program created by the Hazardous Materials Management office to help labs reuse and recycle unused chemicals. Our inventory is updated regularly, and it currently holds chemical substances with an estimated total value of \$15,000. These chemicals have been donated by other laboratories and are still unopened or in good condition for use.

Instead of purchasing new chemicals, you can browse through our inventory and find the ones that meet your specific needs. To get started, simply click the link below. Once you find the chemicals you need, request them from the EH&S team for a seamless transfer.

We believe that ChemSwap can help you significantly reduce your chemical procurement costs while promoting sustainability and waste reduction. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions at hwm@ufl.edu or 352-392-8400.

[CHEMSWAP](#)

GATOR TRACS LIVE TRAINING SESSIONS

EH&S has resumed **live Gator TRACS training sessions** geared toward Principal Investigators and Lab Managers who need assistance building lab rosters, tracking training, completing annual hazard assessments, viewing survey reports, and closing corrective actions. This optional training can provide additional assistance with our cloud-based safety management platform.



Upcoming Zoom sessions:

- Friday, September 27th @10 am
- Wednesday, October 9th @ 3pm
- Thursday, October 24th @10 am

If you are interested in attending, please register through the myTraining website by searching the course code **EHS883** and selecting your preferred training date. Additional information regarding the Gator TRACS platform can be found on the EH&S website.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

UF SEARCHES FOR NEW DRONE DETECTION SYSTEM

The University's Drone/UAS program is focused on ensuring safety, security, and important research throughout the state. In addition, drones can be used for facility assessments, large gatherings, geo-mapping, and other events. As drone usage increases, so do concerns about unauthorized activities.



To address this, the Office of Unmanned Aerial Systems is working with vendors to identify the best drone detection system for the University. Two leading options are the **DeDrone Detection Trailer System** and **D-Fend Solutions**, which use advanced technology to identify drones and operators in real time. These mobile systems can be deployed quickly and integrated with existing security measures, enhancing safety across campus.

[DRONES/UAS](#)

NEW ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICE & BICYCLE POLICY

We are excited to welcome everyone back to campus for this Fall academic year, as our campus community has sprung back into full swing and is thriving with an abundance of activities.

Make sure to stay aware of your surroundings and follow all traffic laws when traveling around campus. Keep an eye out for all pedestrians, motorists, and those traveling on electric mobility devices or bicycles. This year we have an updated **Electric Mobility Device and Bicycle policy 4-013**. Please click on the link below to learn more about these new requirements.



[ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICE & BICYCLE POLICY 4-013](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Karen Nash
Accounting Specialist

EH&S is excited to welcome Karen Nash as our new Accounting Specialist. Karen brings a wealth of experience to her role, with a background in Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, collections, front office management, and paralegal work. Most recently, she worked on the tax side of Payroll with UF CORE Payroll. Karen holds a Bachelor's degree in Community and Human Services and an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice.

In her role at EH&S, Karen handles Accounts Payable and Receivable. She also assists with purchasing as needed. Outside of work, Karen enjoys gardening, DIY home projects, live music, reading, and is a passionate animal lover.

[CONTACT](#)

**Kristen Burns**

Training Crd. & Instructional Designer II
Occupational Safety & Risk Management

EH&S is excited to welcome Kristen "Ten" Burns as the new Training Coordinator and Instructional Designer II in Risk Management. Ten holds a Master's in Educational Technology and a Bachelor's in English from the University of Florida. She has experience working as an Instructional Designer for the Digital Worlds Institute, where she helped design and deliver online courses on Blockchain and Web3 technology.

In her current role, Ten designs, develops, and delivers engaging training programs to support EH&S initiatives. Her diverse background in education and technology enables her to create effective and innovative training solutions tailored to the needs of the EH&S community. Outside of work, Ten enjoys practicing yoga and meditation, traveling, and playing music, particularly the guitar and piano.

CONTACT

New Hires

Karen Nash, *Accounting Specialist*

Kristen Burns, *Training Crd. & Instructional Des. II*

Julie Cooper, *Pest Management Technician I*

Sal Gaurav Yenula, *OPS Hazardous Waste*

Sourab Kasimahanthi, *OPS Fire Safety/Hood*

Promotions

Krissy Catalano,
Administrative Specialist II

Gary Eagle,
Pest Management Tech. II

Follow us on social media and help promote #UFSafetyCulture



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