



MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues,

For the fourth year in a row, EH&S is proud to celebrate October Safety Month with a series of events across the UF campus. Each week in October, we'll be hosting activities at different locations — the Reitz Union, Wertheim Hall, Scott Family Hall, and the UF Research and Academic Center at Lake Nona. We encourage you to join us and explore our safety programs and initiatives.

This newsletter covers several important topics including new Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) minutes requirements, eye protection requirements for UF labs, chemical fume hood profiling and maintenance, state vehicle policy reminders, and much more.

With flu season approaching, the Student Health Care Center is once again offering free flu shots. No appointment is needed. Walk-in during business hours at convenient campus locations or attend a mobile flu shot event.

As always, we sincerely appreciate your continued efforts and partnership in keeping the UF community safe.

Regards,
Shailendra Singh



CELEBRATE SAFETY MONTH THIS OCTOBER

This October, EH&S is proud to host Safety Month, highlighting UF's commitment to fostering a safe and healthy campus environment. Throughout the month, departments, labs, and facilities across campus will participate in workshops, drills, and outreach activities.

Safety Month is more than a compliance initiative. It's an opportunity to empower faculty, staff, and students to recognize potential hazards, prepare for emergencies, and share responsibility for protecting our campus community. Be sure to look for EH&S tabling events across campus and stop by to say hello and to learn more about our programs and resources.



SAFETY *Month* AWARENESS

Join EH&S for Exciting Events Across Campus!

*Our mission is to minimize injury and illness to faculty, staff, students
and visitors and to minimize damage to University property.*

October Events:



October 6th
10 am - 2 pm
Reitz Union



October 16th
11 am - 1:30 pm
Wertheim Lobby



October 23rd
9:30 am - 11:30 am
Scott Family Hall



October 30th
11 am - 1 pm
Lake Nona

What to Expect:

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

EHS.UFL.EDU

NEW IBC MINUTES REQUIREMENT



To promote transparency at federally funded research institutions, the National Institute of Health (NIH) now requires all Institutional Biosafety Committees (IBCs) to publicly post approved meeting minutes. Effective June 1, 2025, UF IBC minutes are now published at: <https://ibc.research.ufl.edu/schedule>.

Project titles must be included in the published minutes. To protect sensitive intellectual property, applicants are encouraged to avoid including proprietary information in project titles for new submissions or amendments. However, applicants must include adequate technical details in their project submission forms for proper IBC review and approval, even if that information includes intellectual property.

While IBC members maintain strict confidentiality of all submissions, applicants may request redaction of sensitive information from the published minutes by contacting bsso@ehs.ufl.edu at the time of submission. For additional information, read the [NIH Notice](#).

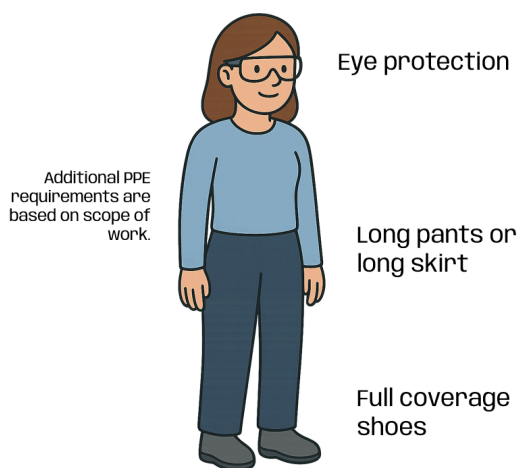
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EYE PROTECTION REQUIRED AT UF LABS

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a vital safeguard for anyone working or visiting a laboratory. PPE is the last line of defense, providing a barrier between the user and potential hazards. Depending on the work being performed, required PPE may include lab coats, gloves, eye protection, face shields, or respiratory protection.

All personnel entering a lab at UF must wear eye protection. Eye injuries are one of the most common types of laboratory accidents, yet they are also among the most preventable. Even when active experiments are not underway, potential hazards remain present in the environment, making continuous use of eye protection essential.

PPE IN FOCUS: REQUIRED LAB ATTIRE



CHEMICAL FUME HOODS

Chemical fume hoods are a key safety feature in laboratories. They protect staff by venting harmful vapors and fumes outside the building. To stay safe, always use fume hoods properly and report any issues right away. When the hood is not in use, keep the sash closed to ensure maximum protection.

EH&S profiles every fume hood once a year (or after any repair) to confirm it is working within safe limits. If your hood is tagged "Out of Service," do not use it until cleared by EH&S. For questions, contact EH&S Lab Safety at 352-392-1591 or labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu.



MORE INFORMATION ON FUME HOODS

GATORS, FIGHT THE FLU: GET VACCINATED!



As flu season approaches, getting your annual flu vaccine is one of the most effective ways to protect yourself and your fellow Gators from serious illness. UF Student Health Care Center offers free flu shots at convenient campus locations. There is no appointment needed during business hours.

By getting vaccinated, you help shield our community, especially those at higher risk, and reduce strain on healthcare services. Get your free walk-in flu shot at the Student Health Care Center or attend one of the mobile flu shot events this fall. Don't wait -- get your flue shot and help us keep UF strong, healthy, and flu-free!

MOBILE FLU OUTREACH SCHEDULE

STATE VEHICLE POLICY REMINDER

EH&S would like to remind everyone that only UF employees and HR-approved volunteers are insured to drive state vehicles. Students are not covered unless they are employed by UF or serving as approved volunteers and driving as part of their duties.

Departments must ensure that only authorized drivers are assigned to state vehicles. Adhering to this policy protects drivers, UF, and the State of Florida from liability.



AUTO LIABILITY POLICY

WATCH OUT FOR BROWN WIDOW SPIDERS

Brown widow spiders are increasingly common at UF. They can be identified by their striped legs and orange hourglass markings, similar to the black widow. Their venom is more potent than the black widow's, but they inject less, so symptoms are usually limited to pain, nausea, and cramps.

Brown widow spiders often build nests with spiked egg sacs. If you spot brown widows on campus, contact EH&S Pest Control at 352-392-1591.



EH&S HAS GATOR PRIDE



On home game Fridays, the EH&S team proudly wears orange and blue to celebrate UF Gator Football. We gather outside for a group photo and share our team spirit and campus pride on social media. This fun tradition not only highlights our love for the Gators but also brings our team together in true UF style.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Olivia Peterson

EH&S Coordinator I

Lab Safety/Research Services

EH&S is excited to spotlight Olivia Peterson, who recently joined the Lab Safety/Research Services team. Olivia manages Gator TRACS and will soon take on lab inspections to support a safe and compliant research environment at UF.

Olivia holds an MPH in Environmental Health & Epidemiology from Emory University and a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Washington. She brings a strong background in health and research with five years of experience.

CONTACT OLIVIA

Outside of work, Olivia enjoys baking—her current favorite is banana pudding.

New Hires

Preston Hicks - *Hazardous Mat. Specialist I*
Leslie Jones - *OPS Radiation Safety Assistant*
Olivia Peterson - *EH&S Cdr. I*
Elvis De Santiago - *Hazardous Mat. Specialist I*
Megha Agrawal - *EH&S Cdr. I*

Promotions

Garth Dixon - *EH&S Cdr. I*
Eric Victor - *Deputy Building Code Admin*
Linda Patrick - *Building Code Inspector III*

Anniversaries

Russell Sebree - 25 years
Daniel Hickey - 5 years

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