



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY *Newsletter*

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

As we move into the fall semester, I am pleased to share several important EH&S updates and highlights. Currently, our biggest operational focus is transitioning from GatorTRACS to CampusOptics. All laboratories need to verify personnel rosters, submit new biohazard registrations, and manage chemical inventories through this new platform. Additionally, please remember that all lab hazard assessments must be completed in CampusOptics by December 1.



We are also addressing findings from a recent joint EPA/FDEP inspection. All labs, shops, and maker spaces should review their satellite accumulation areas to ensure proper container closure, sealing, and hazard labeling. Moreover, we have launched a new Compressed Gas Safety training and updated our Biomedical Waste Training course.

Finally, October is Safety Month at UF. We invite everyone to participate in our educational events, complete a bingo card for prizes, and practice preventative health by getting an annual flu shot and learning more about mosquito bite awareness. We also encourage you to stay alert while traveling around campus.

Thank you for your shared commitment to keeping our campus community safe, compliant, and healthy.

Regards,
Shailendra Singh

CAMPUS OPTICS TRANSITION UPDATES



EH&S continues the transition from GatorTRACS to CampusOptics, the university's new research safety management platform. Laboratories should review recent updates and take note of the following action items:

- Verify your laboratory rosters in CampusOptics, as roster data was transferred from GatorTRACS earlier this year and may require updates. Tutorial videos on how to do this can be [found here](#).
- New Biohazard Project Registrations must now be submitted through CampusOptics. New submissions are no longer accepted in GatorTRACS. Link to the new submission form can be [found here](#).
- Amendment and renewal applications through CampusOptics will open this week. We will follow up with an email to protocol holders providing instructions on how to submit your amendment or renewal.
- Chemical inventory management has fully transitioned to CampusOptics and is no longer available in GatorTRACS.
- Hazard assessments must be completed in CampusOptics by December 1.

Training resources, tutorial videos, weekly Teams training sessions, and additional transition information are available on the EH&S CampusOptics website.

[VIEW ALL CAMPUSOPTICS UPDATES](#)

OCTOBER SAFETY MONTH

October is Safety Month at UF, and EH&S invites faculty, staff, and students to participate in a month-long series of events focused on building a stronger culture of safety across campus. In recognition of Biosafety & Biosecurity Month, Fire Prevention Month, and National Chemistry Week, EH&S will offer educational programs, hands-on activities, and interactive outreach opportunities that promote hazard awareness and safe work practices.

Participants can connect with safety professionals, discover practical tips for maintaining safe research and workplace environments, and even complete a bingo card for chances to win exciting prizes throughout the month. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, engage, and celebrate safety. Visit the [October Safety Month website](#) to learn more.

October 2026

<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>
			1 New Engineering Building 10AM - 12PM	2
5	6	7 Reitz Union 9AM - 2:30PM	8 VAB Lobby 10AM - 12 PM	9
12	13 Vet Med Courtyard 2PM - 4PM	14 UFRAC Lake Nona 11AM - 1PM	15	16 ARB Founder's Gallery 11AM - 1 PM
19	20 Facilities Services 10AM - 12PM	21 Center for Env./Human Toxicology 1PM - 4 PM	22 Scott Family Hall 10AM - 12PM	23
26	27 Fifield Farm 10AM - 12PM	28	29	30 Cancer & Genetics 11AM - 1PM

[GET YOUR BINGO CARD](#)

HAZARDOUS WASTE COMPLIANCE UPDATES

During a joint EPA/FDEP inspection conducted this year, officials reviewed lab operations throughout campus. The inspection identified several areas of concern including container closure, hazardous material and universal waste labeling, and storage time limits. The final EPA/FDEP report emphasized the importance of maintaining compliance and noted that future violations could result in enforcement actions, including financial penalties for the University.

To address these findings, EH&S is providing updated guidance materials and posters in satellite accumulation areas (SAA), increasing focus on hazardous waste management during ESCO and safety inspections, and offering additional training and targeted workshops for personnel in areas where improvement is needed.

In addition, we are asking all laboratories, shops, and maker spaces to review their SAA guidelines. Please take the time to ensure that all materials collected in the SAA are appropriately stored, sealed, labeled, promptly documented, and any issues are corrected. If you have questions or need assistance, please visit the UF EH&S Hazardous Waste Management website or contact hwm@ufl.edu.

HAZARDOUS WASTE		
Waste Hazard (Check all that apply)	Chemical (include all constituents) Total should = 100%, No Abbreviations	Approx Conc. (%)
☒ FLAMMABLE		
☐ OXIDIZER	Ethanol	30
☐ CORROSIVE	Water	65
☐ REACTIVE	Tris Buffer	4
☐ TOXIC	Methionine (3H)	1
P.I.	Smith	
Bldg. & Room #	DNA / 101	

PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY FORM# EHS-CWLBS-9/17

LEARN MORE ABOUT HAZARDOUS WASTE

STAY SAFE FROM MOSQUITO BITES

Employees who work outdoors or spend extended time in agricultural, field, wooded, or wet environments may have increased exposure to mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illnesses. Protect yourself by using an EPA-registered insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, and routinely eliminating standing water where mosquitoes can breed. Be alert for symptoms such as **fever, headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle or joint pain, rash, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unusual fatigue or weakness, and bleeding** following mosquito exposure.



Persistent vomiting or diarrhea is especially concerning because fluid loss can quickly lead to dehydration, and some mosquito-borne illnesses may also cause a significant decrease in platelet count. **Seek prompt medical evaluation** for persistent or worsening symptoms, severe abdominal pain, inability to keep fluids down, signs of dehydration, unusual bleeding, difficulty breathing, confusion, or altered mental status. Remember the five steps to reducing your risk:



MORE MOSQUITO SAFETY TIPS

DID YOU GET YOUR FLU SHOT YET?

As flu season approaches, now is the time to plan for your annual influenza vaccination. The CDC recommends yearly flu vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older, with rare exceptions, as an important way to reduce flu illness and potentially serious complications. For most people, September and October are ideal times to receive the vaccine, allowing your body time to develop protection before flu activity typically increases.



Staying up to date on your flu vaccine not only helps protect you but can also reduce the risk of spreading influenza to coworkers, patients, family members, and others who may be more vulnerable to severe illness. Get vaccinated, practice good hand hygiene, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when you are sick.

MORE INFORMATION ON INFLUENZA PREVENTION

COMPRESSED GAS SAFETY TRAINING

A new Compressed Gas Safety training course (EHS450) is now available for all laboratory personnel and users of compressed gases. The training covers essential practices for the safe storage, handling, transport, and use of compressed gas cylinders in research laboratories.

This training is automatically assigned as part of the laboratory hazard assessment but will remain as recommended until the end of February 2027. Beginning on March 1st, all active users of compressed gases will be required to complete this training.

You can access this new training via the MyTraining portal. If you have any questions, contact EH&S at labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu.



REGISTER FOR EHS450

HEADS UP GATORS: TRAVEL SAFE

EH&S is encouraging everyone to put down the phone, keep their heads up, and stay aware while traveling around campus. Whether you're walking, riding a bike or scooter, or driving a car, paying attention to the people and traffic around you can help keep everyone safe.



Pedestrians should use crosswalks and obey signals. Bicyclists and scooter riders should follow the rules of the road. Drivers should slow down and watch carefully for those around them. As an added bonus, paying attention when you're traveling across campus gives you a chance to soak in the beautiful sights and rich history of UF's campus.

MORE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

BIOMEDICAL WASTE TRAINING UPDATE

The annual Biomedical Waste Training for Main Campus and Satellite Campuses has been consolidated into a single course, EHS851. All individuals responsible for generating, handling, or managing biomedical waste are required to complete this training annually.



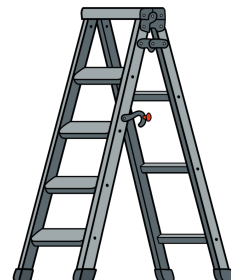
Please note that EHS854 (Off-site Biomedical Waste Training) has been retired and is no longer available. The updated course (EHS851) takes approximately 25 minutes to complete.

REGISTER FOR EHS851

LADDER SAFETY BASICS

Ladders are involved in thousands of workplace injuries each year, many of which can be prevented through proper use and inspection. Before using a ladder, check for damage, ensure it is placed on a stable, level surface, and select the correct ladder type and height for the task.

Always maintain three points of contact when climbing and keep your body centered between the side rails to avoid overreaching. Never stand on the top step or top cap of a stepladder unless it is specifically designed for that purpose.



Taking a few moments to use ladders safely can help prevent falls and keep everyone safe on the job.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LADDER SAFETY

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



CONTACT JORDAN

Jordan Thom

Health Physicist II
Office of Radiation Safety

EH&S is excited to welcome Jordan Thom as our new Health Physicist II with the Office of Radiation Safety.

Jordan plays an important role in supporting the university's radiation safety program by conducting audits for radioactive material licensees. Jordan also monitors radiation levels during patient treatments, assists with the shipping and receipt of radioactive materials used in medical procedures, and responds to radiation-related emergencies.

In her free time, Jordan enjoys cooking and trying new recipes, traveling, and binge-watching a good show on the weekends.



CONTACT SHELBY

Shelby Tyler

EH&S Coordinator I
Lab Safety

EH&S is thrilled to welcome Shelby Tyler to the Lab Safety team. Shelby conducts laboratory safety surveys and provides support to research and teaching labs across campus.

Shelby holds a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry and brings nine years of laboratory experience. Her research focused on designing and synthesizing novel drug molecules to treat psychostimulant use disorder and pain. Outside of work, Shelby enjoys traveling, attending concerts, and spending time with her three cats, Clover, Ramona, and Pudge.



CONTACT HAROLD

Harold Gonzalez

Accountant III

Environmental Health & Safety

Please join us in welcoming Harold Gonzalez, Accountant III, to the EH&S team. Harold supports EH&S financial operations, including invoicing, deposits, budget monitoring, financial reporting, reconciliations, and other key accounting functions.

Before joining EH&S, Harold held several administrative and financial roles at the University of Florida, including positions with the Center for African Studies, IFAS, and Core HR. Harold holds degrees in Organizational Management and Accounting. In his free time, Harold enjoys drag racing, fishing, boating, jet skiing, and spending time at sandbars.

New Hires

Emma Fuller – *Accountant II*

Harold Gonzalez – *Accountant III*

Ernest Holmes – *Haz Mat Specialist I*

Zachary Stoudenmire – *Occ. Safety Crd. I*

Zachary Stump – *Haz Mat Specialist II*

Jordan Thom – *Health Physicist II*

Lance Thomas – *Pest Management Tech I*

Rachel Tolces - *EH&S Coordinator I*

Shelby Tyler – *EH&S Coordinator I*

Anniversaries

Jorge Morales – 10 years

Terri Parnell – 10 years

Shailendra Singh – 5 years

Promotions

Terri Parnell – *Assistant Director, Finance*

Shailendra Singh – *Assistant VP of EH&S*

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