



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY Newsletter

OUR INAUGURAL ISSUE

Welcome from Director, Environmental Health & Safety

Dear UF community,

On behalf of the members of the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) division, I would like to introduce the first issue of the **new and improved EH&S newsletter** expanding beyond research safety topics.

The goal of this newsletter is to provide updates on safety-related information, keep the UF community informed about new programs and training opportunities, cover a wide range of health and safety topics to the UF community, and spotlight EH&S staff members.

We recently launched our **new EH&S website**, and we encourage you to become familiar with the various safety programs and latest information provided.

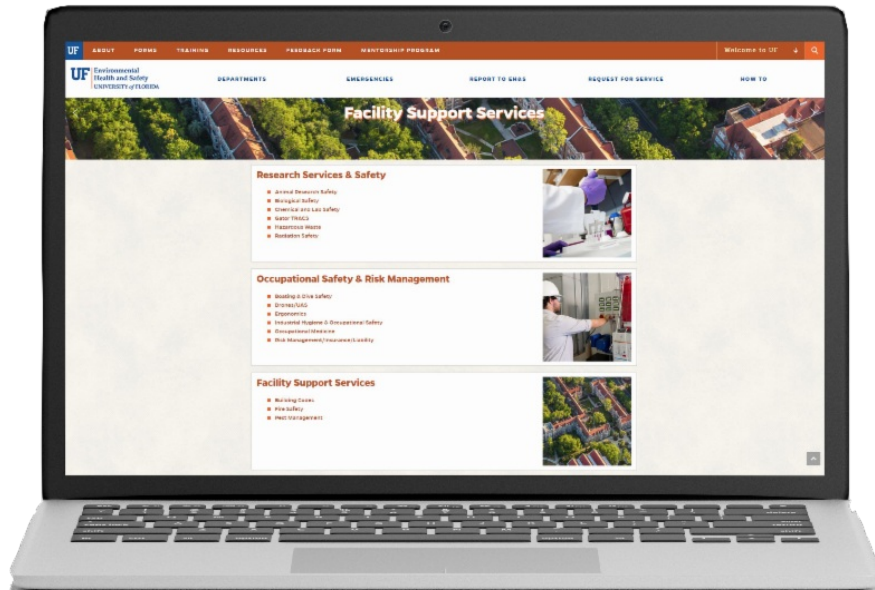
We are committed to supporting a safe working environment for our community members and fostering a culture of safety in research labs, student areas, maker spaces, offices, and shops. **EH&S team members are more than happy to meet with you to work through your safety questions and concerns.** We want to partner with you to help achieve your research and work goals while keeping everyone safe on campus. Please feel free to contact us to discuss any concerns or get advice.

Many thanks for your support, and we look forward to working with you.

Regards,
Shailendra Singh



ANNOUNCING EH&S NEW WEBSITE



We're extremely pleased to introduce our new website

We recently launched our new EH&S website. Its sleek design and improved navigation make for a more pleasant and user-friendly experience. Visitors can easily locate resources, forms and contact information.

Exciting features

[Resources](#) use the site index from A to Z to find exactly what you're looking for

[Forms](#) all EH&S forms in one location

[How To](#) quick steps on how to obtain a permit, respond to a spill, etc.

[Feedback](#) help us provide quality service by completing a survey on any EH&S service

[VISIT WEBSITE](#)

CONSTRUCTION EVERYWHERE



Our campus is currently undertaking massive infrastructure and building improvement projects to make this the greatest place to live, learn, and work. With construction comes safety concerns. Some of these concerns include moving safely around campus.

One of the best sources of information on road closures, pedestrian routes, as well as ADA routes around campus is the [UF Campus Map](#).

This map is updated daily to reflect the current road and sidewalk closures. Our building construction projects include the Honors Residential College (the 1400 bed housing complex on Museum Dr.), the Public Safety Building, Malachowsky Hall, the Student Healthcare Center, the Football Training Center, the Special Collections Building, Blueberry Research Facility, in addition to many gateway access points onto campus.

When walking around these sites, please show extra caution because construction workers operating large equipment and trucks may have limited visibility. Always make sure the operator of the equipment sees you. If you witness a dangerous situation at one of these locations, please call EH&S at **352-392-1591** and inform Chris Carlson so that the situation can be remedied.

Because of the numerous road closures, emergency response vehicles must take non-typical routes which may cause slight delays in response. To prevent emergency response delays, we must quickly clear the path for emergency vehicles.

[CAMPUS MAP](#)

NEW FIRE SAFETY TRAINING



At UF, your safety is our top priority. The Fire Safety team in Environmental Health and Safety is excited to provide **fire extinguisher training** to our campus community.

This new program will include

- a review of recommended actions during a fire emergency
- the different types of fire extinguishers found on campus
- how to safely use a fire extinguisher by applying the P.A.S.S. method

After the brief safety presentation, each attendee will then take part in the practical use of a fire extinguisher with our **newly purchased digital fire extinguisher simulator**.

Contact EH&S to schedule a class.

[SCHEDULE TRAINING](#)

Don't P.A.S.S. up an opportunity to learn!

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK



EH&S Lab Safety, in collaboration with the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Safety Office, celebrated UF engineers at the NEB rotunda during National Engineers Week in February. EH&S staff handed out beverages, treats, and HWCOE swag while networking with faculty, staff, and students.

Thank you to the faculty, staff and students that submitted videos discussing the importance of safety in their day-to-day activities:

- Dr. Ryan Need, Materials Science and Engineering
- Dr. Juan Claudio Nino, Materials Science and Engineering
- Dr. Carlos Rinaldi-Ramos, Chemical Engineering
- Hayden Good, Rinaldi-Ramos Lab (MSE)
- Sitong Liu, Rinaldi-Ramos Lab (MSE)
- Danial Preston, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- James Fleetwood, HWCOE Safety Office
- Dr. Taylor Rawlinson, Civil & Coastal Engineering
- Dr. Kevin Gilley, Materials Science and Engineering
- Anthony C. Conception, Aifanti Lab (MAE)
- Yonguk Lee, Miller Lab (MSE)

NEW DEA & DBPR EXEMPTION DATABASE

**DEA/DBPR
FORM**

EH&S's database for managing **DEA registrations and DBPR exemption letters** has migrated to OnBase.

If you are a Principal Investigator who utilizes pharmaceutical grade substances and/or controlled substances in research, a copy of the DEA registration and DBPR **exemption letter** must be submitted to EH&S.

These records can now be submitted online by utilizing **the new DEA/DBPR File Upload Form** and will be stored using OnBase, a secure enterprise information platform supported and managed by UF IT.

Once records are uploaded, registrants will be automatically notified when DBPR exemption letter and DEA registration are coming up for renewal.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SAFETY SURVEY



[REQUEST ITEMS](#)

Are the hazard warning labels and emergency call list on the notice boards up-to-date?

Per OSHA 1910.145, signs and “tags shall be used as a means to prevent accidental injury or illness to employees who are exposed to hazardous or potentially hazardous conditions, equipment or operations which are out of the ordinary, unexpected or not readily apparent.”

Required notice boards posted at the entrance of each lab must contain:

1. two emergency contacts with after-hours phone numbers
2. laboratory hazard warning labels
3. notice of required PPE

Notice boards and hazard warning labels are provided by EH&S free of charge. Please call 352-392-1591 or email labsafety@ehs.ufl.edu to get labels and boards.

NEW PI MEET & GREET

EH&S provides New PI Meet and Greet meetings **every first Thursday of each month at 10:00 am** in the EH&S Conference Room (also available via Zoom). The goal of this meet and greet is to provide the resources principal investigators may need to launch their research efficiently and safely.

Please stop by or drop in via Zoom!

Regardless of whether you are a new Principal Investigator or have worked here your entire career, at EH&S we know that you are eager to efficiently conduct research while achieving compliance with all federal and state agencies.

[REGISTER](#)

LAB MANAGER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



[MORE INFO](#)

EH&S has launched a Lab Manager Mentorship program in which experienced lab managers will have an opportunity to mentor new lab managers in related disciplines. Mentors will serve as a resource for information on lab management issues, state and federal regulations governing their research, the application of EH&S requirements to compliancy with these regulations to their mentees. This is a **wonderful opportunity for all participants** to enrich their careers and professional network.

Lab Managers needed!

If you are interested in participating as either a mentor or a mentee, please visit the [Lab Manager Mentorship Program](#) for more information and to register as a participant.

REPORT A LAB CLOSEOUT

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

EH&S will be happy to support the process!

Notification to EH&S is required **thirty days (30) in advance**. Please click on the button below if you need to report a lab closeout.

[REPORT A LAB CLOSEOUT](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



[CONTACT](#)

John Guerra, CSP

Associate Director

Occupational Safety & Risk Management

We are pleased to welcome John Guerra as our new Associate Director of Occupational Safety and Risk Management. John comes to UF with over 25 years higher education experience, including Purdue University, University of Nevada Las Vegas, University of South Florida, and Carnegie Mellon University. He holds a Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree in Fire Science, and certificates in Occupational Health & Safety and Enterprise Risk Management for Chief Risk Officer (CRO). He also has several professional certifications as a Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Fire Inspector (CFI), Certified Trainer for Forklift and Aerial lifts, and National Incident Management System (NIMS) trainings. During his free time, John enjoys spending time with his family, cruising, golfing, and screenwriting.



[CONTACT](#)

Chris Carlson, MPA

Associate Director

Facility Support Services

We are pleased to have Chris Carlson as the new Associate Director of Facility Support Services where he will provide administrative and technical direction for the Building and Fire Codes Compliance, Fire Equipment Services, Pest Control and ADA Codes programs. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science, a Master of Public Administration and Emergency Services Management, and over 20 years of industry experience. In addition, he is a Florida state licensed Building Code Administrator, certified Building Contractor, certified Underground Utility and Excavation Contractor, Florida Building Inspector and Florida Fire Inspector. In his spare time, Chris enjoys woodworking, hydroponic gardening, and exploring the beautiful Floridian outdoors.

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD



Eric Victor

Building Code Inspector
Facility Support Services

We are excited to announce that Eric Victor is the 2022 recipient of the Superior Accomplishment Award for Business Affairs. Eric demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond his duties as Plans Examiner and Inspector during the construction boom on campus. His work in ensuring UF's efficiency and compliance to state statues make him an asset to the EH&S department and his profession. We are extremely proud of Eric's contributions which have helped elevate the University of Florida to a top-five public university.

SERVICE RECOGNITION



Todd Eberst (25 years), James Mahony (35 years), David Kramer (30 years)

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT



David Kramer

Associate Director
Facility Support Services
30 years at the University of Florida



Dennis Fleetwood

Associate Director
Occupational Safety & Risk Management
18 years at the University of Florida



EHS.UFL.EDU