



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY *Newsletter*

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the members of the EH&S division, I would like to thank everyone for their continual support of the EH&S Quarterly Newsletter. We successfully published four issues during 2022 with an outreach to over 19,000 faculty, staff, and students all over the State of Florida. Not only was it well received but the newsletter became a source of new and updated health and safety information for the UF community.



In addition, since we launched a feedback form on our EH&S website last year, we received around 250 entries. Over 85% of the feedback responses were positive, where people appreciated and valued our EH&S services. As we received some questions and concerns, the EH&S team promptly connected with the concerned person to resolve the issue.

During the first quarter of 2023, we organized several events on campus during the CSHEMA Safety Awareness Week. We also launched a new safety program for Hydrofluoric acid (HF) and are actively training lab staff and students who are working with HF. Lastly, we are launching a new campaign called Gear Up Gator to raise awareness of required personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with hazardous materials. In conjunction with this campaign, EH&S has recently updated the institutional [PPE Policy](#). You can hear more about all of our events, programs, and campaigns by following us on social media.

As always, we are committed to supporting a safety working environment for our community and want to partner with you to help achieve your research goals. Many thanks for all your support in keeping the UF community safe.

Regards,
Shailendra Singh

Gear Up, *Gator!*

Wear your PPE:



Eye

Protection



Gloves



Lab Coat



Gear Up, Gator! 2023 is the year of PPE!

Personal protective equipment, commonly referred to as “PPE” is equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. Along with proper attire, which includes long pants and full-coverage shoes, those working in labs where chemical, radiological or biological hazards exist must wear proper eye protection, gloves, and protective clothing.

We are asking for your help to promote a strong safety culture at UF by recognizing our colleagues who exemplify safety. **If you encounter someone wearing the appropriate lab attire (long pants and full coverage shoes) and PPE (eye protection, gloves, and protective clothing) while working in the lab, please submit their picture, name and department to researchsafety@ehs.ufl.edu** so we can feature them on social media and in the next newsletters. Those nominated will be entered for a chance to win a prize at the end of each academic term.

NOMINATE A SAFETY CHAMPION

FAMILY DAY AT THE DAIRY FARM

On February 11th, EH&S joined Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) during their 7th annual **Family Day at the Dairy Farm** event in Alachua. Though the morning started out a little wet, the day turned out to be a fun filled day where tons of UF families and the local community came out to support and experience life at the dairy farm. This event was developed to educate the community about the main facets of a working dairy farm. It allowed some **hands on exhibits, food, and games**. EH&S **was on-site to teach about fire safety and demonstrate how to proper use a fire extinguisher**. Sparky the fire dog even made an appearance.

Dr. Diwakar Vyas, an Animal Science Research Assistant Professor said, “It was great having UF EH&S at the “Family Day at the Dairy” event. Safety demonstrations were very interactive and engaging, ensuring that everyone was involved and able to learn. We appreciate your collaboration and look forward to continuing working with you on future events.”



IFAS ANIMAL SCIENCE

UPDATED ANIMAL CONTACT HANDBOOK

EH&S has just issued an updated version of the Animal Contact Handbook for Allergens and Zoonotic Diseases.

All personnel who handle or work with live animals, handle animal tissue or body fluids (including animal waste), are listed on an IACUC protocol, or access Animal Care Services managed facilities must enroll in the Animal Contact Program and review the Animal Contact Handbook. Renewals are required at least every 3 years or when there are changes in work assignment (i.e. change in species, contact level) or when there are changes in personal health status. Click below to review the updated handbook



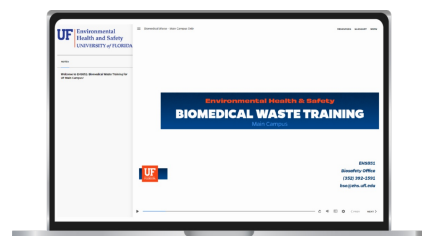
ANIMAL CONTACT HANDBOOK

NEW BIOMEDICAL WASTE & BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS TRAINING

EH&S has just launched new versions of the Biomedical Waste and Bloodborne Pathogens training.

Here's what to expect:

- **For Main Campus:** We will no longer offer the combined Bloodborne Pathogens/Biomedical Waste course. Instead, **users must complete Biomedical Waste (EHS851) and Bloodborne Pathogens (EHS850G) separately.**
- **For non-Main Campus personnel:** We are in the process of launching an off-campus Biomedical Waste Training (**EHS854**). The standard bloodborne pathogens training (EHS850) also applies to those off campus who may be exposed to BBPs.



Who should take the training

Biomedical Waste training is required for all faculty, staff or students who generate, package, transport

or supervise working involving the generation of biomedical waste at UF facilities.

Bloodborne Pathogens training is required for all faculty, staff, or students with the potential for exposure to (or supervise work involving) human blood, tissues, organs, cell and certain human body fluids.

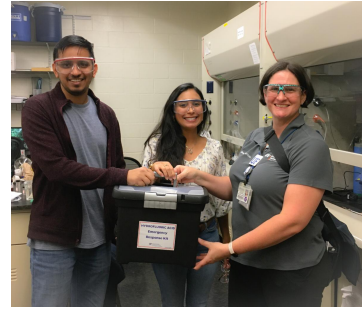
Please visit [our website](#) for updated **flyers** and additional information.

HYDROFLUORIC ACID PROGRAM

Our hazard specific program for hydrofluoric acid (HF) launched with the new year. Labs identified as using HF by the chemical inventory and/or hazard assessment were enrolled in the Hydrofluoric Acid Program.

Requirements of the HF program:

- Lab staff working with HF must attend in-person EH&S training
- The Principal Investigator must have a complete Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for HF work and approve staff to work with HF.
- Every lab must have a HF Emergency Response kit purchased from EH&S



Dr. Ronald Castellano's lab in the Department of Chemistry is our first fully trained laboratory that received the HF Emergency Response kit.

Thank you, Dr. Castellano and staff!

HF SAFETY PROGRAM

DO YOU HAVE A BIOHAZARD PROJECT REGISTRATION THAT STARTS WITH THE LETTERS RD, BA, AT OR TA?

If the answer is "yes", please be aware that **paper-based Biohazard Project Registrations will no longer be valid as of March 15, 2024**. The [Gator TRACS Biohazard Project Registration module](#) has been in use since February 2020 and has been required for all new project submissions since that time. In addition, technical amendments to existing paper projects and five-year renewals for IBC approved projects have also been registered as new projects in Gator TRACS.

Any active work covered by a paper-based registration (submitted prior to February 2020) must be submitted as a new project in Gator TRACS by March 15, 2024. If the work associated with a paper-based registration has been completed, please submit an [Administrative Amendment](#) to terminate the project. If you need a report detailing your active paper-based registration(s), please email bsc@ehs.ufl.edu to request a summary of your registered projects. Additionally, if you need assistance with the Biohazard Project Registration module, you can email bsc@ehs.ufl.edu to set up an appointment with a biosafety coordinator who can assist you.



As of March 15, 2024, any paper-based projects that have not been transcribed into Gator TRACS or terminated will be administratively cancelled and the research will no longer be approved.

BIOHAZARD PROJECT REGISTRATION

DRONE/UAS REGULATION UPDATE

As many are already aware, the State Department of Management Services is currently working on minimum security requirements for sUAS/Drones as per **934.50 State Statute**.

Under current rules, only drones from the 5 Approved Manufacturers on the [DMS website](#) are allowed to be purchased. We anticipate new rules to be in place sometime in **March of 2023** that will allow for the purchase from additional manufacturers that will meet the minimum security requirements.

We have formed a group to develop workable solutions while minimizing impact to research and operations. These solutions will encompass purchasing and operations requirements to ensure compliance with the state rules.

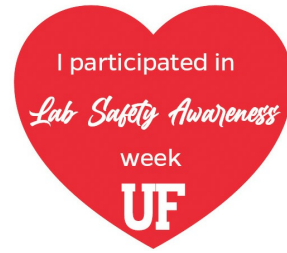
Once clearly defined rules are established, we will update any procedures and information on the EH&S website as well as continuing **updates on the UFUAS Networking Yammer community**.



LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK WINNER

Congratulations to the College of Engineering

During the week of Feb 13-17 EH&S in collaboration with CSHEMA celebrate the Lab Safety Awareness Week. This event was a new initiative to recognize the successes of laboratory health and safety programs and provide additional ways to promote safety to campus faculty, staff, and students. We enjoyed **“Making the Heartbeat for Lab Safety”** at the table events in *Fifield Hall, Entomology, Vet Med, Engineering and Chemistry*. We also received **“heartbeat”** from our business incubators, the Hub, and Sid Martin Biotech.



Thanks for participating and supporting this event.

UPDATE TO GATOR TRACS

Lab Managers can now close safety survey corrective actions on behalf of the Principal Investigator.

When a safety survey report is issued, both the PI and Lab Manager will simultaneously have access to either close corrective actions, request an extension, or reassign the action to another designee. To take advantage of this feature, please review your personnel roster and ensure a qualified individual is assigned the Lab Manager role.

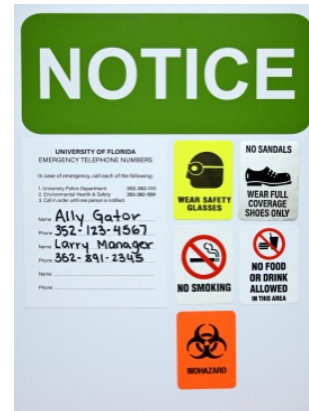


GATOR TRACS

UPDATE NOTICE BOARD EMERGENCY INFORMATION

The Emergency Call List is found on the Notice Boards on lab doors and identifies the individuals to contact in case of an emergency. The call list must include the after-hours numbers of **at least two individuals who can provide information about the lab** to the University Police Department (UPD), EH&S or other emergency responders. This must be reviewed and **updated annually**.

If you do not wish to have private phone numbers posted on the notice board, you may complete, and submit a [privacy form](#).



LAB SIGNAGE REQUEST

SAFETY REMINDERS

Are you closing, vacating, relocating, transferring, or renovating a laboratory? Notification to EH&S is required **thirty days (30)** in advance. Please [report lab closeout](#).

Are you planning to purchase lab equipment? Lab appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, 3D printers, heaters, and microwaves need prior approval from EH&S before being purchased. Please use the [Equipment Purchasing Approval Form](#) to submit requests.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Terri Parnell, MS, PHR

Finance Manager
Director's Office

EH&S is turning the spotlight on Terri Parnell, the Finance Manager of the EH&S state, grant, and auxiliary budgets, as well as the university-wide insurance program.

Terri shoulders many responsibilities including Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Travel, Purchasing and budgets. Before arriving to EH&S, she taught Mathematics in Columbia County for 13 years and managed the Orthopedic Institute's Gainesville and Lake City offices for a decade. Terri holds a B.S. in Business Administration Management from the University of Florida and a M.S. in Human Resource Management from Capella University.

Aside from work, Terri enjoys crocheting, traveling, reading and spending time with family. Whenever she gets a chance, Terri relishes every opportunity to visit her newly born Valentine's Day grandbaby!

CONTACT



Artiom Chacon

EH&S Coordinator III
Occupational Safety & Risk Management

We are thrilled to welcome Artiom Chacon to the EH&S team.

As an Industrial Hygienist, Artiom manages the asbestos program, conducts occupational safety trainings and addresses indoor air quality concerns. He has a B.A. in Chemistry from John Hopkins University. Artiom contributes a vast amount of experience to this department from his years at GLE Associates, Southern Research and USAMRIID.

Sailing, hiking and kayaking are some of Artiom's favorite hobbies. He also has an interest in Formula 1 racing.

CONTACT



Meagan Horan, MS

Administrative Specialist
Director's Office

EH&S extends a warm welcome to Meagan, our Administrative Specialist.

Meagan provides support for the Director's Office and manages unit HR functions. She comes to us from Hough Graduate School of Business where she was employed as a Student Assistant while completing a Master of Science in Marketing degree. Before attending the University of Florida, Meagan earned a Bachelor of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University.

In her free time, Meagan likes to draw, paint and read. She's looking forward to kayaking at some of the springs this summer.

CONTACT

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT

Carolyn Lafferman
Tom Ladun
Elise Lee

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Thank you for your many years of service at UF!

Michelle Burton - 20 years
Stephan Willas - 5 years

SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

Congratulations to the 2023 Division 7 recipients

Thank you for exemplifying superior service to the UF community



Brian Hunt
Insurance & Risk Manager



Linda Patrick
Building Code Inspector



Joel Vasquez
EH&S Coordinator

New Hires

Jancy Brown - *Receptionist*
Erin Brewer - *Insurance & Risk Specialist*
Chris Young - *EH&S Coordinator*
Geoffrey Wasson - *Hazardous Materials Specialist*

Promotions

Kiet Quach - *Hazardous Materials Specialist III*

Follow Us on social media and help promote #UFSafetyCulture



EHS.UFL.EDU