



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY Newsletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear colleagues,

It's time to celebrate! For the second year in a row, UF is recognized as one of the top five public research universities in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. This not only acknowledges the university's positive impact on the UF community, but it also reiterates UF's status as an academic powerhouse in research, innovation, education and much more. As your EH&S team, our goal is to support UF research and education programs while minimizing injury and illness for our faculty, staff, students, and visitors, and providing a safe and healthy environment to our community.



We are excited to introduce the third issue of our EH&S Newsletter, as it covers a wide range of health and safety topics including October Safety Month events, biohazard project registration process, traffic safety on campus, first-aid kit updates, sharps safety, mentorship program feedback, safety reminders and much more. If you missed previous EH&S newsletters, you can download them from our [EH&S website](#).

Please join us in celebrating safety events throughout the month of October and thank you for your continuous support in keeping the UF community safe.

Regards,  
Shailendra Singh

## OCTOBER SAFETY MONTH

Environmental Health and Safety is excited to host October Safety Month by organizing several events here on Main Campus throughout the month. EH&S will be working with other campus partners and public safety agencies to promote safety awareness, fire safety & prevention, and lab & bio safety, amongst others. Please join us for these great opportunities to learn and ask questions, check out some new safety gear and even get some cool giveaways.



- **October 5th** 10am - 12pm - **Engineering Building (NEB) Rotunda**
- **October 12th** 10am - 2pm - **Reitz Union (North Entrance and Lawn)**  
*Partnering with the State Fire Marshal's Office, Gainesville Fire Rescue, UPD, Emergency management and more.*
- **October 19th** 9:30am - 11:30am - **Chemistry/Chemical Building (CCB) Atrium**
- **October 27th** 9am - 12pm - **Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Lobby**



Safety Month

**OCT 5**

10am - 12pm

**Engineering Outreach**  
Engineering Building (NEB)

**OCT 19**

9:30 - 11:30am

**Chemist Safety Day**  
Chemistry (CCB) Atrium

**OCT 12**

10am - 2pm

**Main Safety Event**  
Reitz Union North Lawn

**OCT 27**

9am - 12pm

**Biosafety Awareness**  
Biomedical Science Lobby

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# BIOHAZARD PROJECT REGISTRATION PROCESS

Is your LATCH assessment in Gator TRACS up to date? Have all personnel read and signed the assessment? Is required EH&S training current for all personnel? Have safety survey corrective actions been resolved?



The Gator TRACS platform is a critical tool for communicating laboratory hazards, risk mitigation efforts, monitoring personnel training and understanding of safety information, and addressing corrective actions associated with safety surveys. Biohazard project registration will not be approved until all aspects of LATCH are complete and required EH&S trainings are up to date.

Additionally, any outstanding safety survey corrective actions must be appropriately addressed before the project can be approved. Additional information and Gator TRACS user guides can be found on the [EH&S website](#).

Thank you for supporting us in promoting a strong safety culture at UF.

**GATOR TRACS**

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## EH&S PRESENTS AT CSHEMA

In early July, Shailendra Singh, Cindy Mercado, and Joel Vasquez from EH&S, attended the CSHEMA (Campus Safety, Health and Emergency Management Association) 69th Annual Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. Cindy and Joel presented two educational sessions about the new safety initiatives established at UF. One initiative, in collaboration with UF Facilities Services and academic units, automated the annual process of profiling fume hoods. The other initiative was developed in conjunction with our IT team to establish a new and secure tracking software for DBPR and DEA registrations.

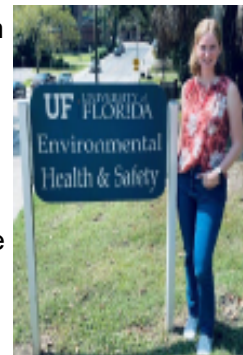


The educational presentations were well received by the over 200 attendees. Shailendra Singh remarked, “CSHEMA is a great platform to connect with other higher education EH&S professionals around the world and learn about the best practices for various EH&S programs and initiatives. This year, their annual conference was a great way to catch up with other university EH&S representatives as COVID impacted last two annual conferences.”

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## UF SENIOR RECEIVES CSHEMA SCHOLARSHIP

During the CSHEMA conference, Samantha Latsko, a UF Senior in the College of Public Health & Health Professions was invited to receive the Dr. Fay Thompson Scholarship. Samantha wrote her scholarship essay on the impact and technologic advances in COVID-19 testing and monitoring. Samantha stated that she has “plans in exploring the fields of Public Health and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).” Recently, she came to the EH&S office on Newell Drive to meet with some safety professionals. She also plans on continuing her education here at UF next year, as she will work on a Master of Science degree in Management.



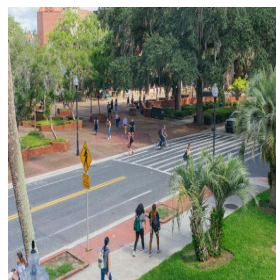
Congratulations Samantha and best wishes in your continued studies here at UF!

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## TRAFFIC SAFETY

Fall semester means a return to a full campus. This includes pedestrians, buses, bicycles, golf carts, scooters and more! If you are operating a vehicle on campus roads, here are a few safety tips:

- Slow down and be aware of crosswalks, intersections, bike lanes and areas where pedestrians are walking.
- Take a few extra seconds when backing up in a parking lot and be aware of your surroundings.
- Obey the posted speed limit.
- Give yourself enough space when following other vehicles so you can be able to brake suddenly if needed.
- Use your cell phone for navigation and emergency use only. Texting while driving is a primary offense in Florida; use hands-free options if you need to make a phone call.



Interested in leveling up your driving skills? Take a [free course](#) from the State of Florida.

**DRIVING COURSE**

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## FIRST AID KIT UPDATES

**\*\*Effective Oct 15, 2022\*\***

**All First Aid Kits must be updated according to  
ANSI Z308.1-2021**

EH&S requires that each lab have a First Aid Kit. Recently, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) updated their First Aid Kit requirements based on American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z308.1-2021. Changes include the addition of a foil blanket and a first aid guide.



Please review our updated list of contents and for additional information visit our [First Aid Kit page](#).

**FIRST AID KIT CONTENTS**

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## GATOR TRACS TUTORIALS

EH&S has resumed live Gator TRACS training sessions. These sessions are geared towards Principal Investigators and Lab Managers who need assistance on how to navigate the online platform.



Please register for the live training session in [myTraining](#) by searching the course code EHS883. Upcoming sessions:

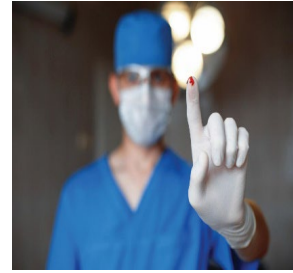
- [Monday 9/26 at 3:00 PM](#) via Zoom
- [Tuesday 10/4 at 10:00 AM](#) via Zoom
- [Wednesday 10/26 at 1:30 PM](#) via Zoom
- [Tuesday 11/8 at 3:00 PM](#) via Zoom
- [Friday 12/9 at 10:00 AM](#) via Zoom

**EH&S TRAINING CALENDAR**

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# SHARPS SAFETY

EH&S provides annual Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) training and supports all employees, students and volunteers who encounter bloodborne pathogens in the workplace. Please connect with your department's BBP training coordinator to verify that your annual required training has been completed. UF offers several courses, which depends on job duties for the employees and/or students/volunteers. Below are the current BBP Training courses which are accessed through the [myTraining portal](#):



- **EHS850G: General Training** (Non-healthcare workers)
- **EHS850C: Clinical Training** (COM, Nursing, Pharmacy)
- **EHS850D: Dental Clinical Training** (Dentistry only)
- **EHS850T: Designated Trainers** (BBP/BMW Trainers only)

In the event of a needlestick/exposure injury at work, immediately call the **Needlestick Hotline at (352) 265-2727**, 24/7. Please also remember to report the incident to **AmeriSys, the State of Florida [Workers' Compensation](#) Medical Vendor at 1-800-455-2079**.

If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact [Tara Hetsler](#), Occupational Medicine Program Coordinator.

## BBP EXPOSURES

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# MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Mentoring is a powerful professional support system that has been demonstrated to **decrease anxiety, increase sense of belonging, and facilitate rapid development of experience and competence** ([Harmin et al., 2006](#)), with these benefits extending to mentees and mentors. EH&S's recently implemented Laboratory Manager Mentorship program is off to a strong start!



Here is some feedback that we have received from a few mentees in the program:

- "I've met with [my mentor] a few times and it has been fantastic. He has been **extremely helpful** and has great ideas and tips for me to follow the direction I want. Thank you again for all the help throughout this."
- "It has been great. [My mentor] has been a great help and resource. I **wish I would have signed up sooner for a mentor!**"

New lab managers are encouraged to sign up at any time and we are continually recruiting experienced lab managers to serve as mentors. If you are interested in participating, please visit the [Mentorship Program page](#).

## MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

## BUILDING A LAB SAFETY CULTURE

Every fall EH&S offers "Building a Lab Safety Culture" training course for anyone interested. Last year we challenged academic departments to invite us to participate in their new employee and new student orientations. This year we are pleased to announce that Vet Med, Chemistry, PK Yonge, and ICBR participated in this initiative.



For more information and to participate in the future, please contact EH&S.

### RESEARCH SERVICES & SAFETY



## 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.

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



### Pratibha Srivastava, PhD

Biosafety Coordinator II  
Research Services and Safety

We are pleased to welcome our new Biosafety Coordinator, Pratibha Srivastava.

#### CONTACT

Pratibha brings an impressive depth of biological knowledge and experience to our department with more than 15 years in research and development. UF IFAS has selected one of her research papers on [Hardlock of Cotton](#) for its "High Impact" research publication program. She possesses a doctorate in Bioscience, is board certified in Molecular Biology from the American Society of Clinical Pathology, and has five clinical licenses from three states. In her new role, Pratibha will inspect biological research facilities on and off the Main Campus and review projects involving biohazards.

Aside from pursuing her passion for biological research and biosafety, Pratibha relishes every opportunity to travel and spend time with her family.



### Craig Moneyppenny, PhD

Biosafety Coordinator I  
Research Services and Safety

EH&S is excited to welcome Craig Moneyppenny as Biosafety Coordinator.

#### CONTACT

Craig comes to EH&S with over 20 years of experience at the University of Florida. He has worked at Whitney Laboratory, the College of Veterinary Medicine, ICBR, and the College of Medicine. As a native of the United Kingdom, Craig earned an Honors Degree in Physiology and a Doctorate Degree of Neurobiology from The Queen's University Belfast. In this role, Craig will conduct annual lab surveys, review biohazard project registrations, and approve biohazard purchase requisitions.

In his leisure time, Craig enjoys traveling, cooking, gardening, and caring for his dogs.

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## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Thank you for your many years of service at UF!

Jeff Daniels - 30 years  
John Rouse - 10 years  
Brian Hunt - 5 years

