

Environmental Health & Safety

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It's Not Too Late!

There is still time to get a flu vaccine to protect yourself and your family. Flu season typically peaks in January or February and can last into April or May. For millions of people each year, the flu can bring a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, fatigue, and miserable days spent in bed. It leads to more than 200,000 people being hospitalized from flu complications each year and can be deadly. Between 1976 and 2007, CDC estimates that annual flu-associated deaths in the United States have ranged from a low of about 3,000 people to a high of about 49,000 people.

Make a commitment to your health and to your family's health by getting your flu vaccine today. Don't let the flu catch you by surprise. Be prepared; get vaccinated today. For more information about influenza and the benefits of the influenza vaccine, talk to your family's doctor or visit www.flu.gov.

Winter storms and cold temperatures can be hazardous, but if you plan ahead, you can stay safe and healthy.

Hazardous Materials Emergencies

During regular weekday working hours (8:30am-5:00pm) if you have an emergency involving hazardous materials, you call the EHS emergency line at 785-3555. But when it's after hours, a holiday or weekend and you have an emergency, who do you call? 911 of course!

Calling 911 from a University phone will put you through to the University Police emergency dispatcher who will take your information and contact the on-call EHS emergency responder. If you dial 911 from a cell phone, you'll reach CT State Police who will be able to route your call to Yale's Police Department.

Don't delay making the call. You will not get in trouble for calling 911. Call as soon as an emergency involving hazardous materials happens or as soon as you are made aware of it. In a recent incident, radioactive contamination was found on a Sunday, but wasn't called in until mid-morning on Monday. What could have taken a short period of time to clean up on Sunday, took 7 people 4 hours each (28 person hours) to clean up on Monday.

Remember for emergencies involving hazardous materials:
Call 203-785-3555 Monday-Friday from 8:30am-5pm
Call 911 on Saturdays, Sundays, Evenings, and Holidays

Environmental Health & Safety

135 College Street, Suite 100, New Haven, CT 06510
Telephone: 203-785-3550 / Fax: 203-785-7588
<http://www.yale.edu/ehs>

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EVALUATION • PREVENTION • RESPONSE
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT • TRAINING

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Make a New Year's Resolution!

Review your Yale training assessment at: www.yale.edu/training today! Find out what training your job duties require and make it a point to complete your training through an offered web course or classroom session.

Call EHS at 203-785-3211 or browse our courses in TMS to find out upcoming classroom sessions or web course offerings.

Ready for the Rough Road Ahead?

When the weather gets nasty, we can't always avoid having to drive in it. Here's a few automobile safety tips on being prepared during the winter season:

- Avoid automobile gas line freeze ups by keeping your tank greater than half full at all times.
- Make sure that your car has adequate antifreeze.
- Check your tires. They should have good traction and be inflated to the right pressure. Consider installing snow tires.
- Be sure your heater and defroster are working properly.
- Your battery should be no more than 3 years old and hold a full charge .
- Have a good ice scraper.
- Put together a winter survival kit and keep it in the trunk of your car. Visit FEMA's "Ready ✓" website at: www.ready.gov/winter for winter storm and extreme cold information.
- Keep a shovel and sand, tow rope, and jumper cables in your trunk as well so you are prepared for winter emergencies.

A Year in Review

- Students, faculty and staff who completed EHS web training: 10,780.
- Student, faculty and staff who attended EHS instructor led courses: 5,039.
- EHS processed 1,730 radioactive material orders.
- EHS performed over 2,828 radiation safety surveys.
- EHS performed over 684 laboratory safety inspections.
- EHS recycled 139,798 ft. of fluorescent light bulbs (26.47 miles).
- More than 1,084 fume hoods were tested and certified.
- There were 189 incidents requiring EHS emergency response.
- 207, 656 lbs. of electronic waste were recycled.
- 5,771 lbs. of batteries were recycled.
- EHS autoclaved/shredded on site 499,350 lbs. of medical waste.
- EHS removed 222,340 lbs. of hazardous waste.
- EHS completed 7,200 Shipping & Export Reviews.

News and Recalls

Over-The-Counter Products Recalled Due to Potential Presence of Foreign Tablets or Chipped or Broken Tablets or Gelcaps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Parsippany, January 8, 2012 – Novartis Consumer Health, Inc. (NCH) announced today that it is voluntarily recalling all lots of select bottle packaging configurations of Excedrin® and NoDoz® products with expiry dates of December 20, 2014 or earlier as well as Bufferin® and Gas-X Prevention® products with expiration dates of December 20, 2013 or earlier, in the United States.

NCH is taking this action as a precautionary measure because the products may contain stray tablets, capsules, or caplets from other Novartis products, or contain broken or chipped tablets.

Consumers that have the product(s) being recalled should stop using the product(s) and contact the Novartis Consumer Relationship Center at 1-888-477-2403 (available Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time) for information on how to return the affected products and receive a full refund.

Consumer Contact: 1-888-477-2403 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST

List of products affected in this recall <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Safety/Recalls/ucm286242.htm>

FDA Report: <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm286240.htm>

30% OF PEDESTRIAN CRASHES ARE THE RESULT OF BEING DISTRACTED. TALKING OR TEXTING ON YOUR PHONE PREVENTS YOU FROM GIVING YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO THE ROAD.



Rules of the Road

Walking is such a routine part of our everyday life many of us don't consider the safety aspects. As a pedestrian, we take for granted that we can walk around without incident, because most of the time we do. We sometimes forget to look both ways when crossing the street, we ignore traffic signals at intersections, and there are times we do not pay attention to the traffic moving around us.

Each of us should practice good safety sense when traveling the Yale campuses and the streets of New Haven. Don't talk or text message on your cell phone while navigating the street. Use sidewalks, cross only at intersections and crosswalks, and be sure to look left and right before stepping off the curb. Your reduced awareness could be fatal.

EHS would like to remind the Yale community to 'share the road' and be aware, whether you are a pedestrian, cyclist or driver.



We are pleased to announce a new way to share information about health and safety topics. Yale Safe & Well is a Facebook page maintained by both Yale Environmental Health & Safety and Yale Emergency Management.

Visit Yale Safe & Well for preparedness and wellness news, current events, and other important information. Join the conversation by posting your questions and thoughts, and share the Yale Safe & Well page with others - www.facebook.com/YaleSafeAndWell.

Danger can rise... In the blink of an eye...

Prevent splattering solutions, chemicals, particles, and broken glass from going directly into your eyes.

Using safety glasses is the best way to protect your eyes while working in the laboratory.

Save your sight
Do it right ...



Scan here for more information on laboratory safety

Yale Environmental Health & Safety
www.yale.edu/ehs 203-785-3550

It's estimated that 90% of eye injuries could be prevented or reduced in severity by the use of PPE.



Incident Report

Description: sharps found in regular trash

Custodians in several areas around campus reported multiple instances of sharps, including scissors, syringes, and medical instruments, in the regular trash. Custodians reported being scratched or stuck in two of these instances.

Resolution:

EHS investigated the trash to determine the source and extent of the problem. All personnel in the affected areas and clinics were immediately retrained on proper waste disposal, with these incidents illustrated as a reminder of the consequences of their careless actions. Medical follow-ups for the affected Custodians were conducted as necessary.

Lessons Learned:

In several of these incidents, residents, staff or students new to the lab or clinic area were responsible. The clinic practice/nurse manager, lab manager or PI needs to be responsible for ensuring that everyone in their lab and/or clinic understands the appropriate way to handle and dispose of sharps and medical waste.

EHS would like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to the Yale community for your continued efforts in keeping our University a safe place to work. We welcome your feedback and suggestions, please contact us at anytime.