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Weathering New England Winters

After enjoying a year of unprecedented warmth, what can we expect for the upcoming winter months? While it may be too early to tell, some forecasters do predict our upcoming winter months to be the kind New Englanders are used to, with snow amounts above normal and lower temperatures in some areas.

Take the time to be sure you have both your home and car winterized and ready for the upcoming months:

HOME

- Have your fireplace, woodstove and chimney serviced. They should be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.
- Space heaters need space, too. Leave at least three feet of space around your heater. Unplug it when it's not being used.
- A good rule of thumb: change your smoke detector batteries when you change your clocks and test those carbon monoxide (CO) detectors too!
- Service your furnace. A problem with your furnace may create the potential for carbon monoxide to build up in your home. Keep a CO detector near the furnace and at the top of stairs near any bedrooms.
- On chilly autumn mornings, avoid the temptation to warm the kitchen with a gas range or an open oven door. The unvented products of combustion can quickly build to toxic levels.
- Make sure that the fire extinguisher in your home is still good. If it has expired or discharged, be sure to replace it promptly.
- Wear safety glasses and hearing protection when operating a power tool outdoors. Keep everyone clear of the air stream and blown materials, which can cause potential injuries.

CAR

- Change your engine oil and coolant for the colder winter months.
- Check your battery, change wiper blades and check the level of your wiper fluid.
- Consider getting snow tires if you live in an area that's covered in snow for most of the winter.
- Use caution on curves. Fallen leaves and black ice can lead to skids and crashes.
- Keep an emergency kit in the trunk of your vehicle. Items to store include flares, blankets, boots, radio, washer fluid, reflective triangles, first aid kit, ice scraper, snow brush, shovel, jumper cables, bag of salt or kitty litter, tool kit, flashlight and batteries, and non-perishable, high-energy foods like unsalted nuts, dried fruits and hard candy.

The task of gutter cleaning is a necessary evil in New England. If you are going to do the gutter cleaning your-self here are some tips on how to do it safely:

- Make certain you use a sturdy ladder.
- Do not lean the ladder on the gutter. Use a stand-off, a U shaped device that holds the ladder away from the gutter.
- Once you've climbed the ladder up to the gutter line do not reach too far to the side. Make more moves with the ladder rather than risk a fall.
- Don't try to climb a ladder or clean your gutters from the roof during wet, icy, or windy conditions.
- Wear non-slip shoes.
- Never work around or near power lines.

Keck Lab Goes Green!

The Amino Acid Analysis and Protein Sequencing sections of the Keck Biotechnology Resource Laboratory at 300 George St., has been making great strides at becoming the most sustainable lab on campus! Their lab was the only lab to become fully certified through the EHS Green Laboratories Certification Program last fiscal year. They scored the required 120 points on the survey earning them the Y-A-L-E green lab certification.



Nancy Williams, the Manager of the Protein Sequencing section and a volunteer Sustainability Leader, and the Keck Green Team have been instrumental in helping their co-workers as well as building occupants increase their sustainable practices by running a Recycling Fair and Raffle for the last four years during Yale Sustainability Summit. In addition to earning points in each category, the lab implemented their own practices such as starting a pilot

project for recycling plastic pipette tip boxes, which are now included in single-stream recycling, and returning toner cartridges to stores that give refunds that were then used to purchase educational items for the summit. She has worked with the management company and trash vendors at her non-Yale owned building and is excited to report that recycling increased 26.7% in 2011 over 2010! Nancy is helping to spread the word about green lab practices as part of the new YSM Sustainability Committee. If you would like to have your lab certified it is as easy as filling out a survey at this link <http://www.yale.edu/ehs/sustainability/greenlabs.htm>.

Laboratory Hydrogen Generators



Hydrogen gas is an important laboratory reagent that is used in many analytical instruments as well as various combustion test equipment. Unfortunately, hydrogen is also extremely flammable, and its presence in large quantities can impact fire safety and building codes. In an effort to reduce the standing inventory of flammable compressed gases in a high hydrogen use research building on campus, EHS and the Provost's Office initiated a pilot test to replace traditional compressed gas cylinders with bench-top hydrogen generators in several

labs. These units are available in a range of sizes, from as small as 300 cc of hydrogen gas per minute up to several liters, and at pressures suitable for nearly all laboratory operations, and gas purity equals or exceeds analytical grade compressed gases. The bench-top units operate on standard wall plug 110V electricity, and utilize membrane electrolysis to separate de-ionized water into pure hydrogen gas. The devices are manufactured locally by Proton Inc., from Wallingford, CT, a high technology firm involved in the design and manufacture of equipment for generating various specialty gases (<http://www.protononsite.com/products/products.html>). For more information about this initiative or to see this equipment in laboratory use, please contact EHS at 203-785-3550.

Tie One On For Safety

Started in 1986, *Tie One On For Safety*[®] is MADD's longest running and most visible public awareness project. MADD asks holiday drivers to tie MADD red ribbons to visible locations on their vehicles, or place window decals on their vehicles' windows. The red ribbons represent drivers' pledges to drive safe, sober and buckled up, reminding other drivers and passengers to do the same. *Tie One On For Safety*[®] begins November 22nd, 2012 and ends January 1st, 2013. Red ribbons and red ribbon window decals are available through your local MADD affiliate at 317 Foxon Road, East Haven, CT 06513. Phone: 203-764-2566. Email: ct.state@madd.org.

Some sobering statistics:

- Every day in America, another 28 people die as a result of drunk driving crashes.
- Every 52 minutes on average, someone is killed in a drunk driving crash (10,228 people in total in 2010).
- Every 90 seconds, someone is injured in a drunk driving crash.
- About one-third of the drunk driving problem – arrests, crashes, deaths, and injuries – comes from repeat offenders.
- Two-thirds of the drunk driving problem comes from people who have yet to be arrested.
- 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.

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EVALUATION • RESPONSE • PREVENTION
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT • TRAINING

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Rules of the Road



Bulldog Mobile gives students, staff and faculty on campus an effective way to coordinate with Yale Police (YPD) via mobile device to help provide a safe and secure campus environment. With Bulldog Mobile, you can use your cell phone as a personal security device to activate the GPS tracking technology and escort timer options.

Based on your cell phone signal, a GPS locator is activated during your active call. The registered profile information assists YPD in identifying and locating you. GPS is only activated when you make the call.

You can set a timer for reaching a target destination. If the timer is not deactivated after a series of reminders, or when you reach your destination, YPD will be notified. For more information visit: publicsafety.yale.edu/bulldog-mobile. Registration is required: <https://www.getrave.com/login/yale/>.

Incident Report

September 2012

Description: Leaking Biological Waste Container

A biomedical waste box from a research laboratory at the medical school improperly contained human blood and it leaked blood onto the pants and hands of the technician moving the box at the waste processing area.

Resolution:

The employee removed his contaminated clothing and washed with soap and water. He went to Yale Health for evaluation. The laboratory confirmed that the blood in the container was not infectious.

Lessons Learned:

The laboratory members were re-trained on the proper way to package their biomedical waste and reminded that liquids are never allowed in the medical waste stream. Blood is to be treated with bleach solution and drain disposed. This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of proper disposal of hazardous materials to prevent injuries and exposures to those removing and processing regulated waste.