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## Better Safe Than Sorry

We learned about a recent fire alarm condition in a campus building near the medical school where some occupants purposely refused to evacuate. We consulted with the Yale Fire Code Compliance office, which confirmed that the fire code in Connecticut mandates that occupants evacuate a building during all actual or perceived emergencies. The only exceptions allowed are pre-announced fire alarm system tests or planned maintenance. Under all other circumstances, it is critical that occupants safely stop what they are doing, gather their immediate personal effects, and leave the building promptly using posted evacuation and exit routes. For more information about fire alarm systems, fire extinguishers, and fire safety in general, contact the Yale Fire Code Compliance Office at 436-2894.

## "Plug-In" to Electrical Safety

The power plugs supplied with electrical devices play a critical role in ensuring that the device is used with the right electrical source—the receptacle or "outlet" as most people call them. In general, plugs are designed to match a specific combination of voltage and current (amperage), so that each plug can only "fit" or mate into an outlet for that specific voltage and amperage.

Fortunately, a potentially dangerous situation was averted recently when a physical plant electrician discovered computer server equipment which came equipped with power plugs that could be operated from either 120 or 240 voltage sources. The power source for this equipment had been locally wired for a 240 voltage outlet, but it still carried the configuration for 120 voltage. This condition was rectified, and a new power source was professionally installed.

Please remember that electrical plugs and outlets are designed for specific electrical configurations, and that any changes or modifications may only be performed by a qualified electrician. For an explanation of electrical plugs and outlets, consult the configuration chart in: [www.internationalconfig.com/config\\_chart/index.asp](http://www.internationalconfig.com/config_chart/index.asp).

Join a training class  
and receive a free  
bicycle helmet!

Read "Rules of the  
Road" to find out how  
to receive yours!

### Environmental Health & Safety

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EVALUATION • RESPONSE • PREVENTION  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT • TRAINING

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EHS Safety Bulletin has a new look! Thanks to your feedback the EHS Safety Bulletin now sports a new design and will be published on a bi-monthly basis. Keep your comments and ideas coming, we appreciate all the feedback we get!

## Safe Feasting

Fresh Turkeys:

- Buy your turkey only 1 to 2 days before cooking.
- Keep it refrigerated until you're ready to cook it.
- **Do not** buy **fresh** pre-stuffed turkeys.

**Reminder:** Remove the giblets from the turkey cavities and cook separately.

Frozen Pre-Stuffed Turkeys:

- Only buy frozen pre-stuffed turkeys that display the USD or State mark of inspection on the packaging.
- Do not thaw pre-stuffed frozen turkeys before cooking.

For thawing and cooking charts see: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact\\_Sheets/Lets\\_Talk\\_Turkey/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Lets_Talk_Turkey/index.asp).

(Thanksgiving food safety provided by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service.)



## Are You Ready?

In the wake of hurricane Irene and our recent "Autumn Nor'easter", residents were faced with power outages, flooded basements, and roads and bridges completely washed away. Irene caused power outages for more than 3 million homes along the east coast and managed to do an estimated \$7 billion in damages. So, what have we learned?

Those who took the time to prepare were in the best position to survive the damages and recover quickly. If you waited until the last minute, you were left scrambling for food, supplies, batteries, flashlights, sump pumps and generators. Knowing ahead of time the 'what and how' of being prepared for any major storm is your best defense.

Maintain a home inventory, have an evacuation plan, learn how to protect your home against storm damage, and make an emergency supply kit. Visit Yale's Emergency Management website: <http://emergency.yale.edu/> for a preparedness guide and information on staying prepared both at home and on campus. Don't wait until it's too late.

## Laboratory Closure and Decommissioning Policy

Yale University is committed to the health and safety of its students, faculty, staff and visitors as well as the surrounding community and environment in which Yale personnel conduct their studies, scholarship, and work. The goal of this Policy is to ensure safe and compliant transitions in laboratory occupancy. More specifically, in order to protect others when an investigator vacates laboratory space, this Policy requires that none of the investigator's research materials may be left behind in the laboratory. Further, the Policy requires that the investigator assure that proper laboratory decommissioning has been conducted, e.g., that all laboratory equipment, fixtures, furniture and space are properly cleaned and decontaminated. Principal Investigators, Departments and Project Managers are equally responsible for complying with advanced notification and other requirements. These overlapping requirements are necessary because, depending on the situation, only one of these entities will have the ability to comply with this Policy. This Policy will be administered by Yale Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

This Policy applies to:

- Research and teaching laboratories owned by Yale or occupied by Yale students, faculty or staff.
- Laboratories that use chemicals, radioactive materials, biological materials, human pathogens, controlled substances, compressed gases, large equipment, mercury containing monitors, etc.
- Laboratories or ancillary research spaces (e.g., cold rooms, freezers in hallways) that are vacated by an investigator.
- Laboratory space that is to be reused by a different investigator, as well as laboratory space that is to be converted to another use.
- Movement of safety critical equipment.

The entire policy can be found via the following link: <http://www.yale.edu/ehs/vacatinglab.htm>.

## News and Alerts

The Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are planning the first Emergency Alert System (EAS) nationwide test, which will take place at 2:00 PM (EST), Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The test will last approximately three (3) minutes. Normal programming will return following the test.


The November 9 test will utilize a "live" national alert code, i.e., a coded message that will present itself as an actual emergency announcement, not a test. This is necessary in order to allow FCC and FEMA to test the actual working order reliability of legacy EAS equipment and the state of readiness of EAS operators and participants.

An audio message will precede the alert message announcing that the exercise is a Test Only. Other information will be broadcast after the test concludes.

Additional information about the test is available at the FCC's website: <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/emergency-alert-system-nationwide-test-eas>.

In need of training, but not sure what type of training your job duties require? Complete your Yale training assessment at: [www.yale.edu/training](http://www.yale.edu/training) to find out!

Visit Yale's training website at: [www.yale.edu/training](http://www.yale.edu/training) or call EHS at 203-785-3211 to find out upcoming classroom session dates and times. EHS offers a wide variety of safety trainings in classroom sessions as well as online.



NEVER RIDE TO THE RIGHT OF A MOVING VEHICLE AT AN INTERSECTION. RIGHT-TURNING TRUCKS ARE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS FOR CYCLISTS. STAY BEHIND THEM.

## Rules of the Road

Did you know that the City of New Haven prohibits the use of bicycles on sidewalks? If you didn't, it could cost you \$93.00!

According to Connecticut State law, bicyclists must follow the same laws as motor vehicles on the road. If you are a bicycle enthusiast or a beginner, EHS invites you to join in on one of our new bicycle safety training courses. The course includes information on state and local traffic laws pertaining to bicyclists, accident avoidance, maintaining your bicycle and the proper fitting of a helmet.

Speaking of helmets, join an upcoming training class and receive a free bicycle helmet! Register today at [www.yale.edu/training](http://www.yale.edu/training). Click on "Environmental Health & Safety" and you'll find class information on our bicycle safety training classes under the category "Physical Safety".

Also, be sure to visit <http://yale.edu/smartstreets> for some great information on street safety for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. The site features animated "Street Scenes" showing you how to behave responsibly in certain scenarios. While you're visiting the site, be sure to take the quiz to see how "Street Savvy" you really are!

## Incident Report

### Description: broken mercury thermometer

An undergraduate student broke a mercury thermometer in her dorm room, spilling the mercury. This thermometer had been brought to her dorm room from home.

### Resolution:

EHS cleaned up mercury and broken glass and took air readings to confirm that mercury levels in the room were below all applicable limits. The broken glass and all residual spill material was double bagged and collected as hazardous waste.

### Lessons Learned:

Mercury thermometers should never be brought onto campus from home and are not allowed in any non-laboratory area, including dorm rooms. Most mercury thermometers used in laboratories on campus have been replaced with thermometers that do not contain mercury.