



What's Inside

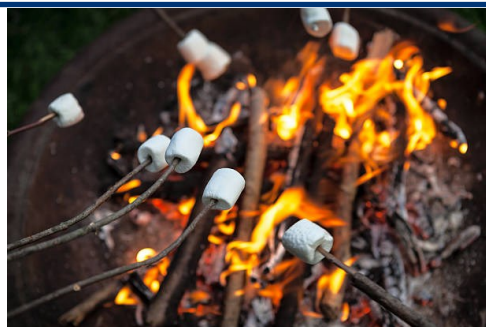
Page One

S'mores and Safety
EHS Employee Wins
Trailblazer Award

Page Two

Disposal of Chemical Waste
in a Sanitary Sewer
Backyard Pool Safety
As Warmer Weather Arrives

S'mores and Safety



Warmer weather often means outdoor entertaining with friends and family relaxing in the backyard, often around a fire pit. While this activity can create a nice ambiance and some warmth on cooler nights, it is important to follow some basic safety guidelines to ensure everyone's health and happiness.

Some towns in Connecticut have special requirements to conduct this type of burning. The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) recommends that you check with your local town/city hall for any restrictions or requirements.

Placement

- Make sure the fire pit is at least 10 feet away from any structure or neighboring yard.
- Always place a fire pit on a non-flammable surface, such as patio blocks or concrete, not on a wooden deck or grass.
- Move all flammable materials at least five feet away from your fire pit.

Burning Materials

- Burn only clean, non-processed wood (untreated, natural wood).
- Do not burn wood pallets, construction debris, painted wood, stained/treated wood or garbage.
- Do not burn soft woods like pine or cedar as they can emit sparks.

Lighting

- Always check wind direction before you light a fire and remove anything flammable downwind of the pit. If it is too windy, do not light your fire pit.
- Do not use lighter fluid or gasoline.

Use

- Never leave your fire pit unattended.
- Consider a wire mesh cover to keep sparks and embers inside your fire pit.
- Keep a container of water and/or hose nearby in case of emergency.

Afterwards

- After your fire is completely extinguished, dispose of ashes in a metal can used only for ash storage. Do not discard hot ashes in a compost pile, paper bag, cardboard box or plastic trash can. Remember, ashes can stay hot enough to cause a fire even after a few days.
- Only put ashes in your combustible plastic trash container when they are completely cool and after you have put your trash container out on the street for trash pickup.

For more information on outdoor burning, please visit the [Connecticut DEEP website](#).

5,300

people were treated in the emergency room for injuries related to fire pits or outdoor heaters in 2017.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

EHS's Allyssa Antunes Honored with Trailblazer Award



Photo by Sarah Masotta, Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs

Allyssa Antunes, EHS's instructional designer & developer, was recently honored with the Trailblazer Award by the Yale Working Women's Network (WWN) Recognition Award Committee during a ceremony at the Provost's House. The WWN Recognition Award is an annual award that recognizes up to five women currently employed at Yale who have been exemplary members of their community, either at Yale or beyond. The Trailblazer Award is given to

"a woman who utilizes opportunities to customize a new career path at Yale".

A total of four awards in various categories were presented at the ceremony. The winners were chosen from more than 50 nominees.

Allyssa came to Yale as an administrative assistant in the Department of English just under five years ago. She soon became involved in Future Leaders of Yale (FLY) and served on the Clerical & Technical Training & Development Committee. Allyssa transitioned to a position as senior administrative assistant in the Office of Development, supporting Vice President Joan O'Neill.

During this time, she pursued her master's degree in instructional design from Quinnipiac University, which she completed in 2018. She began her role at EHS in November and now designs and implements new programming.

Disposal of Chemical Waste in a Sanitary Sewer

Before you dispose of any chemical down the sanitary sewer, please contact Yale Environmental Health and Safety's Environmental Affairs Section (EAS) at 203-432-6545 for guidance.

Since any material poured down a drain eventually flows into the City of New Haven Sewage Treatment Facility, and ultimately New Haven Harbor and the Long Island Sound, the university is regulated by the City of New Haven Sewer Ordinance and the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) concerning the types and quantities of materials that can enter the sewer system. Beyond the legal requirements, the university also has ethical obligations to protect our environment.

When approved by EHS, some chemicals can be safely discarded in the sanitary sewer, but certain criteria must be met in order for materials to be safely poured down the drain, including low toxicity, high-water solubility and moderate pH. Only small quantities are allowed in the system at any time and the chemicals must be degradable by the wastewater treatment (a biological process). Large quantities or highly-concentrated stock solutions of these materials should be given to EAS for disposal.

Note: The following materials should never be disposed of through the sanitary sewer system:

- Any waste chemical that meets the EPA's criteria for being hazardous, either as a listed or characteristic waste (see the [Hazardous Waste Management Procedure](#))
- Oil, grease or other water-insoluble chemicals
- Materials that are not biodegradable or would pass through the sewage treatment plant into the New Haven Harbor and be toxic to aquatic organisms or accumulate in harbor sediments
- Flammable and combustible solvents (flashpoints less than 140°F), unless sufficiently diluted in water as part of the laboratory process such that the solution has a flashpoint greater than 140°F
- Discharges with a pH below 5.5 or higher than nine
- Materials that could interfere with the biological processes of sewage treatment or would contaminate the sludge, making disposal through the normal methods difficult or impossible
- All compounds that could result in the presence of toxic gases or vapors within the POTW
- Malodorous compounds (i.e., mercaptans or thiols) or volatile organic chemicals that can escape from the plumbing system via dry traps causing exposures or obnoxious odors
- Metallic ions and salts of the heavy metals in solutions or suspension in concentrations exceeding those listed in Appendix F of the [Hazardous Waste Management Procedure](#)

203-432-6545

Before you dispose of any chemical down the sanitary sewer, call Yale Environmental Health and Safety's Environmental Affairs Section for guidance.

Office of Environmental Health & Safety
135 College Street, Suite 100, New Haven, CT 06510
Telephone: 203-785-3550/Fax: 203-785-7588
ehs.yale.edu

Director: Peter Reinhardt

Editor: Dan Champagne

"It takes leadership to improve safety." - Jackie Stewart

Backyard Pool Safety Tips

Memorial Day often marks the removal of covers from backyard swimming pools in Connecticut. With friends and family jumping in and out of the water, all swimmers must be aware of and follow some safety guidelines to ensure a fun and safe swimming experience. The following guidelines are provided by the American Red Cross.

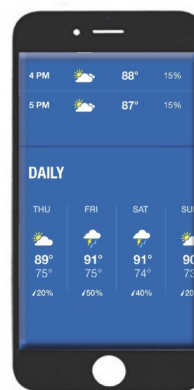
- Surround your pool with a four-foot high fence or barrier with a self-closing, self-latching gate.
- Place a safety cover on your pool when not in use.
- Remove any ladders or steps used for access when not in use.
- Children should be supervised at all times. Stay within reach of younger children.
- Designate a responsible adult to watch the water while others are in the pool.
- Never allow anyone to swim alone.
- Keep your pool clean and clear. Maintain proper chemical levels, circulation and filtration. Test and adjust the chemical levels regularly to minimize the risk of earaches, rashes or more serious diseases.
- Establish and enforce rules and safe behaviors including no diving, swimming with a buddy and no running around the pool deck or patio.
- Ensure everyone in the home knows how to respond to an emergency situation.

For more information, visit the [American Red Cross](#).

As Warmer Weather Arrives...

Always wear your PPE in the lab,
regardless of the weather.

Safety glasses • Lab coat • Long pants
Closed toe shoes • Gloves



We know it's hot...

But so is this.

