



Spring Into Safe Yardwork



Spring has arrived and sprucing up the yard typically comes along with it. But before you dig into your garden or start up your mower, you should take just a few minutes to review some precautions in order to avoid accidents and injuries.

Lawn Mowing Safety Tips

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- Know how to operate your equipment. Read the operator's manual before using any power equipment. Know where the controls are and what they do. Follow safety instructions.
- Handle gas carefully. Fill up before you start and when the engine is cold.
- Dress properly for yard work, wearing substantial shoes, long pants and close-fitting clothes.
- Always remove stones, sticks and other objects from the area so that objects won't fly up and hit anyone. The most common injuries are from debris flying up.
- Wear eye protection to prevent injury from projectiles.
- Wear hearing protection to prevent potentially damaging sounds from reaching your ears without eliminating the sounds you'll need to hear.
- Clear the area of people and pets.
- Always start up the mower outdoors.
- Do not use alcohol, other controlled substances or medicines that impair judgment when using outdoor power equipment.

Gardening Safety Tips

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Wear gloves to lower the risk for skin irritations, cuts and certain contaminants.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET. Protect yourself from diseases caused by mosquitoes and ticks. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants tucked in to your socks. You may also want to wear high rubber boots since ticks are usually located close to the ground.
- Wear long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, sun shades and sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher.

200,000
people in the U.S. are
injured each year in lawn
mower-related accidents.

Source: U.S. Consumer
Product Safety Commission

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Proper Chemical Waste Labeling

Several recent near-misses have brought to light that there may be some confusion on the labeling of chemical waste.

It is a requirement that chemical waste containers be labeled with all of their constituents. This requirement exists not only to comply with environmental regulations, but also to ensure the safety of the staff handling this waste. Yale EHS staff

consolidate much of the waste collected on campus into large drums with other compatible chemicals. If there is a chemical in a waste container that

is not compatible with the chemicals in that large consolidation drum, a reaction might occur such as a bulging and over-pressurization of the drum, fire, etc., which could result in injury to the staff. By identifying each chemical on the label, EHS staff are able to determine if the materials are compatible and process it safely. Please ensure that every chemical added to a waste container is listed on its label—no exceptions! If your lab is using preprinted hazardous waste labels for efficiency, please ensure that any additional chemicals added to the waste container are also added to the label.

If you have any questions about proper labeling of your waste, please contact your [Safety Advisor](#).

YALE UNIVERSITY
Handle with Care
HAZARDOUS WASTE

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FORM

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR		
LOCATION	ROOM NO.	PHONE NO.
DEPARTMENT		

THIS MATERIAL IS PROPERLY DESCRIBED, LABELED,
AND IS IN A PROPER CONTAINER

LAB PERSONNEL SIGNATURE

☐ THIS CHEMICAL IS SUITABLE FOR REUSE/EXCHANGE

REMEMBER!
*USE CHEMICAL NAME
*KEEP CONTAINER CLOSED WITH
SECURE TOP
*DO NOT ABBREVIATE
*DO NOT USE CHEMICAL FORMULA(S)
*INCLUDE TOTAL VOLUME

LIST OF COMPONENTS	% OR PPM
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

TOTAL VOLUME

Office of Environmental Health & Safety
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS SECTION 432-6545

Spreading the Message of Safety

Staff from Yale Environmental Health and Safety provided safety information to hundreds of Yale employees at the Facilities Safety Fair at the Lanman Center on March 22nd. EHS staff was also on hand at the Hospitality Safety Fair the previous day. Pictured from top: Safety Engineer John Campbell; Safety Specialist Charles Watts; Safety Advisor Doug Noble; Safety Advisor Miguel Berrios.



EHS Names Employee of the Year



Communications Officer Dan Champagne, left, and EHS Director Pete Reinhardt.

The Yale Office of Environmental Health and Safety proudly honors Dan Champagne as our 2018 Employee of the year. As the Communications Officer, Dan is a significant contributor to the office and EHS mission. He has done so much to market EHS and convey our messages to the Yale community. He delivers communications that inform, educate, and influence faculty, staff, and students. He assists EHS and university leadership on communications regarding incidents, extreme weather conditions and other sensitive and mission critical events.

Dan did an outstanding job planning and managing the Yale Harvard Biological Safety Symposium, redesigning the EHS website and acted in the Public Information Officer role at a recent radiological counterterrorism tabletop exercise. He also manages the Traffic Safety Committee, working directly with the faculty chairperson, committee members and City of New Haven officials with the goal of keeping motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists safe.

Dan's helpful nature and positive attitude are exemplary.

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"If you want to change attitudes, start with a change in behavior.." - William Glasser