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## Important Safety Update

On December 30, 2008, a research assistant at UCLA splashed herself with a pyrophoric chemical during an experiment, igniting her clothing and resulting in her death 18 days later. She was not wearing a lab coat at the time. Regulatory agencies fined UCLA for failure to correct unsafe workplace conditions and procedures in a timely manner, failure to require work-appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment, and failure to provide chemical safety training to employees. In December 2011, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed felony criminal charges for willful violations of occupational safety standards against the University of California and the UCLA chemistry professor of the laboratory in which the research assistant worked. UCLA believes the charges are unwarranted, and we cannot predict the outcome of this case. Nonetheless, we feel that this is an important time for faculty and supervisors in charge of Yale laboratories to review federal, state, and University safety requirements, and ensure that safe and compliant practices are followed by faculty, students and staff who work in those laboratories.

Your leadership is critical in establishing and maintaining a strong safety culture in your laboratory and at Yale. Talk about safety with your students and laboratory personnel. Discuss risks and your own experiences. Before new work begins, make written safety plans, procedures, checklists and review the training status of all lab personnel. Ask senior scientists to mentor others and be models of safety awareness and practice. Educate all members of your laboratory about their safety responsibilities.

Your EHS Safety Advisor can acquaint you with these requirements and help you maintain a safe laboratory. Yale EHS can also assist you in a variety of other ways, including performing specialized exposure or risk assessments, providing detailed advice on PPE and engineering controls, testing safety critical equipment, and arranging specialized training.

Last year, the University Safety Committee unanimously adopted a policy expressing Yale's commitment "to health, safety and environmental protection in all of its programs and activities." We need your help in making that commitment an integral part of the laboratory culture for all of our faculty, students, staff, and visitors.

Please review these issues with your laboratory group, and don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas for improving laboratory safety on campus.

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EVALUATION • RESPONSE • PREVENTION  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT • TRAINING

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Review your Yale training assessment at:  
[www.yale.edu/training](http://www.yale.edu/training) today! Call EHS at 203-785-3211 or browse our courses in TMS to find out upcoming classroom sessions or web course offerings.

**Learn to look  
with new eyes  
for common  
safety hazards  
in the office.**

## Common Safety Hazards

Although daily office activities may be second nature to you, they can be more dangerous than you might suppose—especially because you and your co-workers don't expect problems. Learn to look with new eyes for these common safety hazards in your office:

- Trips and falls are probably the leading cause of office accidents. They can happen while walking, using stairs, or even just leaning back in your chair. Be aware of your surroundings; watch for unsecured telephone and electrical extension cords, open drawers, loose or worn carpeting, slippery floors, or packages left sitting in aisles. These can send even the most sure-footed person for a nasty tumble.
- File cabinets are another significant source for office injuries. Top-heavy drawers can cause a cabinet to topple over. Sharp corners can cause cuts and other injuries. Drawers can pinch fingers if slammed shut. Open only one drawer at time, and close drawers slowly and carefully; file cabinets with five or more drawers should be secured to a wall or other solid surface.

If you should see these or any other unsafe conditions, report them to your supervisor as soon as possible.

## EHS Employee of the Year

EHS proudly honors Brian Mullins as our 2011 Employee of the Year—for his exceptional initiative and diligent work. Brian serves as the facility technician on the LEPH BSL-3 management team. He designed and implemented lab space decontaminations, effluent sink testing and certification protocols for the autoclaves. These have resulted in significant savings in completing the annual CDC validation protocols. When joining EHS, Brian brought with him the valuable knowledge and insights of an accomplished researcher. He has helped many researchers by sharing his cell culture and sterile work practice techniques to help eliminate contamination. Brian's co-workers say he's reliable, hardworking, experienced, prompt, helpful, dependable and cheerful. Congratulations Brian! You are a model of dedication to the safety and well being of the Yale community.

## News and Alerts

### Fuji Recalls Women's Cruiser Bicycles Due to Fall Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

**Name of Product:** Fuji Saratoga Women's Bicycles

**Importer:** Advanced Sports Inc. of Philadelphia

**Hazard:** The bicycle's frame can break in the center of the downtube during use, causing the rider to lose control and fall.

**Description:** The recalled bicycles are Fuji women's cruiser bicycles. The 2008 through 2010 models Saratoga 1.0, Saratoga 2.0, Saratoga 3.0 and Saratoga 4.0 are included. The bicycles are various colors. "Fuji" and "Saratoga" alone or "Saratoga" along with the model number is printed on the frame of the bicycle. Serial numbers beginning with ICFJ7, ICFJ8, ICFJ9, ICFJ10 and ICFJ11 are included in this recall. The serial number is located on the bottom of the frame near the crank:

**Sold by:** Specialty bicycle stores nationwide from November 2007 through December 2011.

**Consumer Contact:** For additional information, consumers should contact Advanced Sports Inc. toll-free at (888) 286-6263 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the company's website at [www.fujibikes.com](http://www.fujibikes.com).

## Leaving PPE Behind

The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is important when working in a clinical area or with hazardous materials in a laboratory, but there are times and places where this PPE should not be worn. Always remove your PPE when leaving your laboratory or clinical area, and never wear them to the cafeteria, restroom, library, administrative offices, or other off-site locations. After removing your gloves, always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before leaving the clinic or lab. This is basic common safety sense and will help protect the general public, patients and fellow co-workers from possible exposure to hazards.

**Remember:** All personal protective equipment (such as shoe covers, gowns, head covers, masks, gloves, lab coats) used as barrier protection must be left behind in your clinical or laboratory facility before leaving the area to go to non-laboratory and non-clinical areas.

## March is Red Cross Month

Since Clara Barton created the American Red Cross in 1881, people around the country have come forth with outpourings of volunteer assistance and donations of funds and supplies when they learn of a catastrophic event. In 1943 President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the month of March "Red Cross Month."

Today, in addition to domestic disaster relief, the American Red Cross offers community services to help the needy, comfort for military members and their family members, the collection, processing and distribution of blood and blood products, and international relief and development programs.

Blood drives are held 7 days a week in communities where you live and work. To find a blood drive near you, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit the Red Cross [website](http://www.redcross.org). Whole blood donations can be made every 56 days.



Like us on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/YaleSafeAndWell>

**MOST VEHICULAR DEATHS OCCUR IN AREAS WHERE THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT IS 25-35 MPH.**



## Rules of the Road

Speed kills. Even modest speeds greatly compromise your awareness of what is going on around you and your ability to react.

At a driving speed of 30 miles per hour (MPH) 45% of pedestrians struck will be killed. That's an 800% increase over the fatality rate of 5% at a 20 MPH impact. Give yourself enough travel time so you can obey the speed limit.

Remember: The speed limit on most New Haven streets is 25 MPH.

## Incident Report

### February 2012

#### Description: UV light exposure

A graduate student operating a transilluminator multiple times over a one hour period suffered skin reddening and temporary eye injury from UV exposure to her face and eyes. This student was wearing the appropriate faceshield but the shield on the box itself was not in use.

#### Resolution:

The UV transilluminator and face shields were initially taken out of service until they could be further evaluated by EHS. A physical inspection of the face shields available in the lab confirmed that none were cracked or broken, but several were physically filmed over and difficult to see through. The transilluminator shield was re-attached to the box and new polycarbonate face shields were ordered. UV measurements were taken with the transilluminator at maximum power to confirm that the transilluminator shield and face shields provided a high degree of protection against UV exposure (> 99% reductions).

#### Lessons Learned:

Since even at several feet away, unshielded exposure from a UV transilluminator can be many times greater than the summer midday sun, it is critical that users keep the light box shield in place except when actively handling a gel, and that a faceshield, safety glasses, gloves, and fully buttoned lab coat be worn whenever working with this device. Safety posters are being revised and reposted at all transilluminators.