



## What's Inside

Page One

Are You Prepared?  
Autumn Safety Tips

Page Two

Hazard a Guess  
Chemistry Dept. Safety Day  
Rules of the Road

## Are You Prepared?

September is National Preparedness Month.

Some think emergency planning is a daunting task. But that first step could be as simple as a conversation with your colleagues or family members. At dinner or around the water cooler, begin by asking where you would meet if you had to evacuate. Then continue making the plan, build a kit and stay informed!

**On Campus:** Look for the emergency exits in your building or at other buildings you visit on campus. Do you know where the fire extinguishers or fire pull stations are? If your building is evacuated, do you know where your department's mustering point is? Do you have a plan if you have a special medical or mobility need that would prevent you from safely evacuating? If so, students call the Resource on Disabilities Office at 203-432-2324; and faculty and staff talk to a supervisor, a building manager, or the University's Office for Equal Opportunity at 203-432-0849.

**At Home:** Where will you go if you evacuate from your home? Neighborhood? Community? What is your communications plan? Do you care for children or elderly or someone with special needs? Do you yourself have a special medical or mobility need that requires the assistance from a family member? Do you have pets?

**Build a Kit:** Yale Emergency Management at <http://emergency.yale.edu> has a brochure that you can download with a handy checklist of items you should consider for your kit. The brochure includes a list for your "office or dorm room." Consider the idea of slowly building your kit: each time you go to the supermarket, buy a couple of additional items. Before you know it, you will have your very own emergency kit!

**Be informed:** Many communities in Connecticut have a system similar to our Yale Alert. Contact your local Office of Emergency Management or town hall to learn how to receive notifications. On campus, make sure that your contact information is up-to-date. If you are a student, check or update your information in the Student Information System. If you are faculty or staff, update your information through the Yale Portal. A great way to stay informed during an emergency is a weather radio. They are not expensive and the radio is silent until there is a weather watch or warning in the area.

Many experts say that you should be prepared for three to five days; some say up to a full week. Consider what our hazards are in Connecticut and decide what would be best for you and your family. For those of you living on campus, preparation activities are on-going. In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions provided to you through the Yale Alert.

If you have any questions or would like more information on preparedness, visit <http://emergency.yale.edu>. Another great resource is [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov); this site will walk you through each step of the process.

Whether the weather be fine,  
Whether the weather be not,  
Whether the weather be cold,  
Whether the weather be hot,  
We'll weather the weather,  
Whatever the whether,  
Whether we like it or not .  
~ Author Unknown

## Autumn Safety Tips

As summer gives way to autumn, it is time to begin thinking about home preparations for the months ahead. We all know how quickly New England weather can change. It's Mother Nature's way of keeping us New Englanders on our toes!

**Have your chimney cleaned and inspected:** Call a professional and get them to come out to check your fireplace/ woodstove and chimney. They should be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.

**Give heating systems a check-up:** Change filters, check for leaks and have a tune-up before winter to avoid breakdowns and carbon monoxide problems.

**Give space heaters space:** As the weather gets cooler, space heaters come out of their summer hiding places. Remember to leave at least three feet of space around your heater. Unplug it when it's not being used.

**Check your smoke detectors:** A good rule of thumb is to change your smoke detector batteries when you change your clocks.

**Test your CO detector:** During cold weather, your furnace will be running and your windows will be closed, so if there is a problem with the furnace there is a potential for carbon monoxide to build up in your home. Make sure that you have a CO detector near the furnace and at the top of the stairs near any bedrooms. These should be tested regularly to be sure that they are working.

**Never heat with an oven:** 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.

**Replace expired fire extinguishers:** Make sure that the fire extinguisher in your home is still good. If it has expired or discharged, be sure to replace it promptly.

**Check your home's roof, gutter and downspouts:** Keep roof drains, gutters and downspouts clear of leaves to avoid water backups. Be sure they're clear before snow season.

## Hazard a Guess



How well do you know safety signs and hazard symbols?

You have probably seen symbols like the ones pictured above around campus. Granted, some people - such as those who work in laboratories - will see them more often than others. But, even if your job seldom exposes you to hazardous substances and situations, it's still important to know what these symbols mean. You never know when that knowledge might come in handy!

## Chemistry Safety Day



EHS and the Chemistry Dept. held its first annual "Chemistry Safety Day" on Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at Sterling Chemistry Laboratory.

First year graduate students, along with returning students, post docs, faculty and staff participated. Highlights included demonstrations on the handling of pyrophoric and toxic chemicals, live fire extinguisher training with Fire Code Compliance, lab coat fittings and free safety glasses.

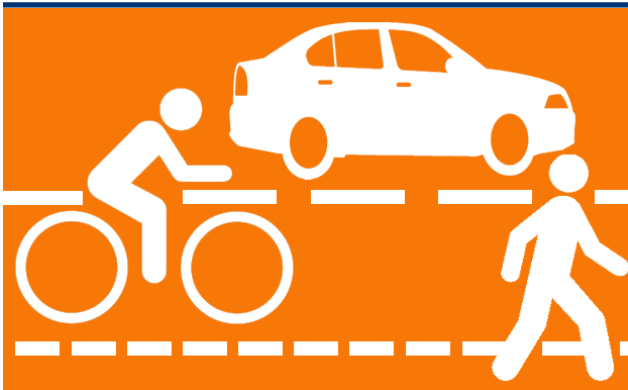
Attendees received a 'passport' upon registering and with each visit to an exhibit table he/she received a stamp. All those who visited every exhibit table and handed in their completed passport, were eligible for prize drawings.

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*How you work can have a major influence on others so always consider your actions in terms of potential impact and what steps are necessary to prevent harm or injury. Become familiar with and observe established safety requirements and procedures in your work area, use any required protective equipment, and report unsafe conditions to your supervisor or our office.*

## Rules of the Road



Be a part of the solution to improve pedestrian, cyclist, and traffic safety on campus.

### Walking:

- Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. If a sidewalk isn't available, walk on the far side of the road, facing traffic.
- Always wait for the walk signal. Pay attention, look both ways, and use the crosswalk.
- Talking on your cell phone is a major distraction while crossing the street. Put it away while crossing.
- Make eye contact with drivers as you cross, making sure they see you.

### Bicycling:

- Wear a helmet - this is the single most effective way to reduce head injuries and fatalities from bicycle crashes.
- The safest place for an adult cyclist to ride is in the road, with the flow of traffic. Obey all rules of the road and behave in a predictable manner.
- Dismount, if you need to use a sidewalk, and walk your bike until it is safe to ride on the road again.
- Be alert at all times—watch out for motorists and pedestrians who might not see you.
- Be visible at dusk and at night. Wear bright clothing and equip your bike with reflectors or lights, both front and rear, so you can be seen.

### Driving:

- While driving, remain alert, attentive and sober. If you become tired pull over in a safe place and rest.
- Put your cell phone away. Pull over into a safe area to use your phone if you have to use it.
- Maintain an appropriate distance when following other motorists, bicyclists, and motorcyclists.
- Always use caution when changing lanes. Cutting in front of someone, changing lanes too quickly, or not using your signals may cause an accident.
- Click It or Ticket: Make sure you and all of your vehicle's occupants are properly restrained.
- Move Over, it's the law! The law requires motorists to immediately slow down when approaching a stopped emergency vehicle and whenever possible, to move over one lane to put extra space between the motorist and the emergency vehicle.