



What's Inside

Page One

New EHS Website
Expect the Unexpected

Page Two

Promising Futures
Alarm Your Home

Welcome to the New ehs.yale.edu

Expect the Unexpected

Emergency situations can present themselves at any time. Being prepared could be the difference between life and death.

September is National Preparedness Month and there is no better time to take a few moments to prepare

yourself for the unexpected. Yale's Office of Emergency Management offers preparedness tips for a variety of situations and has recently added the following tips for laboratories. Visit emergency.yale.edu for more.

Laboratory Emergency Preparedness Tips

- Have a list of all who work in the lab including students, faculty and staff.
- Identify emergency exits, evacuation routes, meeting locations, shelter-in-place locations and scatter locations. Make them known to all who work in the lab.
- Have procedures in place to ensure that researchers and lab employees can leave at a moment's notice. Never remain in your lab during a fire alarm or any emergency that requires immediate evacuation.
- People working in labs should keep their phone ringers "on" so that they can receive Yale ALERT notifications. If that is not possible, lab managers and PI's need to determine how others in the lab will receive emergency notifications.
- Develop a shelter-in-place procedure. Look to see how you can lock and secure your lab. If it is not a good place to shelter in place, identify more suitable spaces nearby.
- If the lab covers multiple spaces, develop a plan for each location and determine the best way to communicate during an emergency. Having a group text or group e-mail prepared in advance is helpful for sending messages to your lab.
- If possible given the situation and life safety, turn off any open flames or hot plates after securing the lab. Immediately proceed to the designated evacuation or shelter-in-place location within the lab or other identified location in your plan.

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is excited to announce the launch of its redesigned website at ehs.yale.edu. The new site was created with the purpose of getting you the information you need as quickly and easily as possible.

Each program has its own section with subsections containing specific information, trainings, forms and tools and resources for that area. Each program section also hosts a resources box with links to trainings, forms, tools and resources and policies and procedures for that program.

If you prefer to skip the program sections and go directly to trainings or forms, you can do that right from the main menu, which appears on every page of the site. You can access an alphabetical listing of all EHS trainings and forms or choose a specific program in the dropdown menu to have them sorted for you.

Every page also features buttons to some of our most widely-used information. The buttons allow you to directly access EHS Integrator, request a waste pickup, find your safety advisor or search Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

When searching for your safety advisor (at least one is assigned to every Yale building on campus) you can search using your building's name, street address or Yale building acronym. The results will show your safety advisor's name, phone number and e-mail.

EHS has a wealth of information available to assist you in doing your job safely during your time at Yale. It is our hope that the new ehs.yale.edu provides you an opportunity to access that information in the most convenient way possible.

Tell Us What You Think
We welcome your feedback on the new ehs.yale.edu.
Send your comments to ehswebmaster@yale.edu.

Promising Futures



From left: Ben Fontes, Biosafety Officer; Tamara Gray; Julio Badillo; Koleyatu Sheriff; Cassandra Irizarry, New Haven Community Hiring Initiatives; Donique Haynes and Shumin Bian, EHS Safety Advisor.

This summer, four New Haven Promise Scholars worked with EHS, gaining valuable on-the-job training as part of the Biosafety Stewardship Project-Cold Storage Inventory Project. With their help, EHS was able to successfully implement this inventory program.

The New Haven Promise scholarship program was created in 2010 as a way to help qualified New Haven students afford college. It has since grown into a program that also helps these students gain skills for post-graduation.

“One of biggest hurdles for college graduates is they don’t have enough work experience,” said Chris Brown, Yale’s Director of New Haven Hiring Initiatives. “Although they go to school and get good grades, it’s still difficult to get that initial job.”

The students, under the supervision of EHS Safety Advisor Shumin Bian, personally labeled over 3,100 cold storage units with unique identification numbers in laboratories around campus to create an online inventory system. They also supported EHS staff in assisting laboratory personnel with creating their own inventory systems to identify all of the contents in their cold storage units.

“These students did a great job and really alleviated a lot of stress from the EHS staff,” said Ben Fontes, Yale’s Biosafety Officer. “They came along at a time when EHS really needed this support and every one of our staff members is grateful for the time and effort they put in.”

The New Haven Promise scholarship is an annual award that covers tuition expenses remaining after federal and state government grants at a Connecticut public 2 or 4-year college or university, up to \$10,000 a year over four years.

To qualify, students must be a New Haven resident and attend New Haven public schools or an approved charter school in New Haven, have a positive disciplinary record during high school, complete 40 hours of community service over their four years in high school, have a 90 percent attendance record or better in high school and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at graduation. To maintain the scholarship in college, they must keep a GPA of 2.0 or higher each semester.

For more information on New Haven Promise, visit newhavenpromise.org.

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

“Safety is free. Use it generously.” - Author Unknown

Alarm Your Home

Roughly three out of five fire-related fatalities occur in homes without smoke alarms or where the smoke alarms are not working properly, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



Ensuring you have working smoke alarms installed in your home can give you and your family an early warning to get out of the house quickly. The following tips are provided by the NFPA. Visit nfpa.org for more information.

Choose Your Type

- There are two kinds of smoke alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires while photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types in your home.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Special smoke alarms are available for the hearing impaired. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.

Location

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside of each bedroom and sleeping area along with in the basement.
- On levels without bedrooms, install alarms in the living room, den or family room, near the stairway to the upper level or in both locations.
- Smoke alarms should be installed at least 10 feet from a cooking appliance to minimize false alarms when cooking.
- Mount smoke alarms high on walls or ceilings. Wall-mounted alarms should be installed not more than 12 inches away from the ceiling.

Maintenance

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Smoke alarms with non-replaceable 10-year batteries are designed to remain effective for up to 10 years. If the alarm chirps, warning that the battery is low, replace the entire smoke alarm right away.
- Smoke alarms with any other type of battery need a new battery at least once a year. If that alarm chirps, warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away. A good reminder is to replace the battery on all smoke alarms when Daylight Saving Time begins.