



# Safety Reporter

## This & That

### HSC Lubbock:

#### New Employee Safety Orientation

Available Online  
[www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety](http://www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety)

#### Laboratory Safety

Available Online  
[www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety](http://www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety)

#### Radiation Safety for New RAD Workers

Thursday, February 17  
Thursday, March 17  
Thursday, April 21  
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
BA120

### HSC Amarillo

[www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety/AMA](http://www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety/AMA)

### HSC El Paso

[www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety/ELP](http://www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety/ELP)

### HSC Odessa

[www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety/ODS](http://www.ttuhscc.edu/admin/safety/ODS)

## Warming Toes Safely

Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round.

### Facts and Figures

■ In 2001, an estimated 54,900 home heating equipment fires were reported to U.S. fire departments, resulting in 220 civilian deaths, 1,120 civilian injuries and \$502 million in property damage.

■ Two of every three home heating fires in the U.S. in 2001, and two of every three related deaths, were attributed to portable and fixed space heaters and related equipment.

■ Only 20% of the home heating equipment fires in 2001 began with central heating units

■ Common causes of space heating home fires are: lack of regular cleaning, leading to creosote build-up, in wood-burning devices and associated chimneys and connectors; failing to give space heaters space by installing or placing them too close to combustibles; basic flaws in the construction or design of wood burning heating equipment;



fuel spills or leaks involving liquid- or gas-fueled heating equipment.

### Safety tips:

■ When buying a new unit, make sure that a

qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly.

■ For wood or coal stoves or fireplaces, have a professional inspect the chimney, connector and other related equipment every year, and have them cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.

■ Keep space heaters at least three feet (or one meter) away from anything that can burn.

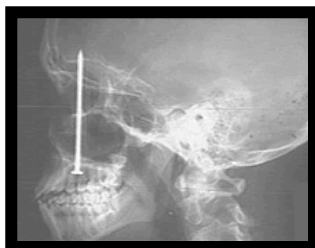
■ Fuel portable kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area away from flames or other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer, and never use gasoline. Use only if such heaters are legal in your community.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## In this Issue

Space Heater Safety .....	1
Safety Smarts.....	2
Caught in the Safety Act.....	2
Hazard Communication Violations.....	3
Safety Tips for HSC Construction.....	3
Lab Safety: Working Alone.....	3
Tips for Parents.....	3
Recall Registry.....	4
Meet Team Safety.....	4

## Safety First! Be Alert!



It pays to be alert! In this case even if it is after the fact..... After complaining of a toothache, a Colorado construction worker's dentist discovered that he had a 4-inch nail embedded in his brain. Surgeons removed the nail, which evidently entered through his mouth while he was using a nail gun. The man was totally unaware that it was there and simply thought he had a toothache. Lesson.....Be Alert and always wear protective equipment.



**Safety Smarts**  
**Tips to Keep You Safe!**

### Prevent Fires: Maintain Your Fuses

Hundreds of people are killed and thousands more are injured each year in North America as a result of electrical fires. Following simple rules can help you and your family remain safe:

- ✓ Instead of just replacing or resetting a tripped or blown circuit breaker, find out what caused the circuit to overload and fix it.
- ✓ Don't use several high-amperage appliances (irons and other heat-generating items) on one circuit.
- ✓ Always use the appropriate amperage rating for a given circuit. Never exceed the permitted amperage.
- ✓ Never use a penny or other electricity-conducting material in place of a fuse



#### February is.....

American Heart Month

#### March is.....

National Nutrition Month



## Space Heater Safety

(Continued from page 1)

■ When turning a heating device on or off, follow the manufacturer's instructions. When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shut-off features.

■ Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated. Unventilated gas space heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms must be small and well-mounted. Never use liquefied-petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in the home.

■ Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave a room or go to bed.

(Source: NFPA's Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends)

### TTUHSC Portable Space Heaters:

Before considering using a portable space heater, please contact maintenance and first determine that additional facility heating is not available in your area of the building.

National Fire Codes stipulate that portable space heaters used in a health-care occupancy are limited to heater elements which do not surpass 212



degrees Fahrenheit. TTUHSC Fire Safety has tested and approved one type of heater we consider to be code acceptable and safe enough for use at HSC. This type of portable heater is oil filled, electrically powered, and containing no fans. It looks like an old style radiator and is made under several brand names: DeLonghi, Honeywell, etc. You can usually get them in winter months at Wal-Mart, Target, Home Depot and other small appliance type businesses for about \$40.00.

### Space Heater Rules:

- 1) Space heaters should ALWAYS be turned off when not attended.
- 2) Remember to give space heaters space.
- 3) Keep space heaters two or three feet from walls, drapes or any other possible combustibles.
- 4) Plug heaters directly into wall outlets. If extension cords are required contact the fire marshals.
- 5) Space heaters should ALWAYS be turned off when not attended.

Need additional information?

Contact Fire Marshals Mike Martin or James Kirkland. ■

## CAUGHT IN THE SAFETY ACT

When one is "caught in the safety act", they are caught preventing accidents from happening to me, to you, or to our patients and visitors.

*This quarter, Jean Bardy was caught in the safety act.* Jean has been spotted moving wheelchairs several times from 1st floor vestibules back to the transportation / information area where wheelchairs are stored for patient use.

Wheelchairs left in those

vestibules prevent not only people in wheelchairs from entering the HSC safely but also people with children, delivery personnel, patients, and other visitors.

Thanks to Jean, accidents are prevented each time she takes the time to return wheelchairs to their rightful place. Patients also benefit from having timely access to those wheelchairs as they come in for their appointments.

Our Thanks goes out to Jean Bardy, not only from the Safety Services staff, but from all HSC staff, who are working to ensure we maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Have you "Caught someone in the Safety Act"? We would like to recognize those people! Please email us a description of what, when, where, and how to:

[karen.humphreys@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:karen.humphreys@ttuhsc.edu) ■

Maria Garza  
Safety Education and Training

## Hazard Communication Tops Violations

The three most-cited violations by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are; lack of a written Hazard Communication Program, lack of employee information and training, and lack of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). The Texas Hazard Communication Act of the Texas Health and Safety Code, requires public employers to provide employees with specific information on the hazards of chemicals to which employees may be exposed in the workplace.



As required by law, your employer must provide you with certain information and training.

TTUHSC's written Hazard Communication (HazCom) program, as outlined in the Laboratory Safety Manual, is comprised of several components such as workplace chemical lists and outreach training programs. MSDSs are available to employees via an Internet-based chemical

management system called ChemWatch. By law, employees have rights to access copies of MSDSs, information on their chemical exposures, receive training on chemical hazards, receive appropriate protective equipment, file complaints, assist inspectors, or testify against their employer. Employees shall not be required to work with hazardous chemicals from unlabeled containers, except portable containers for immediate use, the contents of which are known to the user. ■

Scott Luker

Safety Education and Training

## Safety Tips for HSC Construction

Just when you thought you'd finally found a place where there wasn't any construction going on! It's here all around us, there's not much we can do about it. But please use more caution when walking to and from your vehicle, or when driving in the area. Expect the unexpected, conditions around a construction area are known to change on a daily basis, or from morning to afternoon! Please keep this in mind. If familiar sidewalks are temporarily blocked off, do not at-

tempt to go through them anyway, look for a designated alternate route of travel. Road changes may occur over the weekend, allow for extra travel time in the mornings, especially after a weekend. New and unfamiliar construction equipment may appear all of a sudden, watch out for same! Designated walking surfaces may change suddenly, due to weather or equipment damage, always observe where you are walking. Watch for lost patients or visitors. We see them all the time...lost and not knowing how to enter the

building, please help them out. Report any unsafe conditions that you may encounter, such as walkway obstructions or unsafe walking surfaces to the Safety Services office. If leaving the facility at night, please call and ask security for an escort. One day, hopefully in the not too distant future, we will get our old facility back, complete with new sidewalks, and parking lots. Please be safe and patient with us! ■

Mike Torres  
Occupational Safety

## Lab Safety: Working Alone

Working alone means performing any activity out of sight or communication with another individual for more than a few minutes at a time. The major danger in working alone is sustaining an illness or injury that precludes self-rescue. The most common working-alone situations arise during nights, weekends, and holidays. However, personnel may work in areas with no

other personnel during normal working hours, as well.

<http://www.lnl.gov>

"Avoid working alone in a building; do not work alone in a laboratory if the work being conducted is hazardous. If work must be conducted alone in the laboratory, then the worker should arrange to have someone check on his or her status periodically. Given notification by the lab worker,"

TTUHSC police (743-2000) "will make periodic check-in visits to any laboratory with someone working alone. You may also contact the TTUHSC police for an escort to your vehicle."

<http://www.cmu.edu/fms>

(Millis, 2005)

### Q & A

**What can I use as a flame source in my biological safety cabinet (BSC)?**

(Continued on page 4)

## Safe Kids Tips for Parents

### Simple Fire Safety Tips for Parents

Take just a few minutes to talk with your children about fire safety and take these precautions:

- ✓ **Explain that matches and lighters are for adult use only.** Store all matches and lighters out of a child's reach.
- ✓ **Purchase only lighters that are child-resistant.**
- ✓ **Encourage your children to tell you if they see a child playing with matches and to leave the situation immediately.**
- ✓ **Never leave children unattended.** Do not store matches or lighters where children might play unsupervised.
- ✓ **Review your fire drill plan annually at a family meeting.** Practice what your family would do if a fire broke out.

If your child is setting fires, seek help immediately. Contact your child's school, the local fire department, or a pediatrician for a referral to counselors trained to help. ■

Safety and the Supervisor

# SAFETY SERVICES

*Life is fragile - Work Safely*

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Pam Kottkamp  
Christe Ochs

## HSC El Paso

Donna Holguin  
Roxanne Chacon

## HSC Odessa

Arthur May

Visit us on the Web!



[www.ttuahsc.edu/Admin/safety/](http://www.ttuahsc.edu/Admin/safety/)

The *Safety Reporter* is dedicated to promoting safety awareness by sharing ideas and goals leading to the prevention of accidents and the preservation of health. Comments: victor.means@ttuhsc.edu.

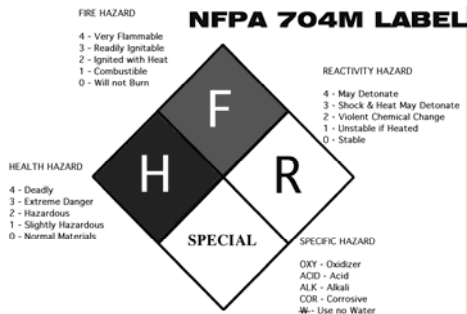
## Recall Registry

■ Daimler Chrysler is recalling the Dodge Durango and Dakota Trucks for a problem with their upper ball joint in the wheel. The wheel and ball joint can possibly separate causing the collapse of the suspension, resulting in the wheel completely coming off. For more information on the recall, visit <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/recalls/recallsearch.cfm>.

■ Lakewood announces recall of their Model #5101 Oil-Filled Electric Heaters. These heaters are sold at retailers nationwide, including Wal-Mart and Ace Hardware, from August 2004 through November 13, 2004 for between \$34 and \$40. Welds can rupture, expelling hot oil that can burn nearby consumers. Consumers can call Lakewood's Recall Hotline: (888) 858-3506 CPSC Consumer Hotline: (800) 638-2772 CPSC.

## Working Alone

(continued from page 3) A touch pad burner is the best option. It only generates a flame when the pad is touched, once released it is just a pilot light which generates a negligible amount of heat and doesn't impair air flow. The problem with Bunsen burners and spirit lamps is they are a



source of heat. Heat inhibits proper air flow in the BSC compromising the safety of the worker and the integrity of the work (i.e. contamination). If too much heat is generated it can damage the air filter.

**What is the proper way to organize the chemicals in my lab?**

Each chemical has its hazards listed on the side of its container. Most chemicals should be organized by highest hazard. All health hazardous chemicals should be grouped separately from other chemicals, and the same for flammables, reactivity, oxidizers, acids, alkali, and corrosives. If a chemical is listed as a reactivity hazard or an oxidizer, please read the MSDS to ensure proper storage. When in doubt, contact safety services at 743-2597. If you like to have your chemicals stored alphabetically, then create these segregations of the chemicals and then alphabetize them. ■

**Lisa Jacquez**  
Laboratory Safety

## Meet Team Safety!

Meet Karen Humphreys!

She comes to us from the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center on the main academic campus and we are very fortunate to have her on our team. She is the new Education and Training Manager for Safety Services.

She graduated from Sam Houston State University with a Masters Degree in Library Science and also graduated from Texas Tech University with a Masters Degree in Education.

Karen is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Education in Instructional Technology.

She is a local girl, graduating from Monterey High School. She has many talents, one of which is golf. She was the head girl's golf coach at Midway ISD in Waco for 2 years and also the Head Librarian.



Karen has already made a few changes for the better, one of which is the new design of the Safety Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it!

In each issue, we will be spotlighting a member of our Safety Services team. Remember, we are here to assist you with your safety needs or just if you want to say hello! ■

Cindy Jones