



SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Newsletter 1 Fall 2018

LSUS Injury Rate Soars

Six LSUS employees have gone to the clinic since the first day of June for treatment of work related injuries. Historically, we have an average of only one work injury in any three month period. These injuries ranged from lacerations to sprains to pulled muscles. Accidents which cause an employee to receive medical care are known as Workman's Compensation (WC) Claims. WC Claims cost the university money and, as with automobile insurance, cause an increase in the university's insurance premiums. They also cost the university by the loss productivity of injured employees.

The state requires your Safety Guy to perform a "root cause" investigation of each on the job injury. The obvious purpose of this is to determine why/how the accident occurred and to hopefully determine how to prevent similar accidents in the future. Without exception, all seven of the above injuries (yes, one employee had two accidents since June 1) were preventable.

Almost without exception, injuries on LSUS are caused by inattention and carelessness. Slips and falls, our most common injury, are not caused by banana peels, but rather by inattentive and unfocused employees. Here is a quote that tells it all:

"Three causes of accidents are I didn't think, I didn't know, I didn't see, so **BE ALERT, DON'T GET HURT**"

"Safety First, Last, and FOREVER..."

- an Unknown Safety Guy

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Check This Out....

[LSUS Policy Statement 6.01.00 \(General Safety\)](#)

This policy statement outlines our Safety Program and contains two key pieces of information that the Office of Risk Management requires us to present to all employees annually.

First is our **General Safety Rules** which provide general (and pretty obvious) rules for all employees. Take special note of the requirement to report all accidents, incidents, and injuries **IMMEDIATELY** regardless of severity.

Second is **Safety Responsibilities** which outlines individual responsibilities relative to our Safety Program.

Your acknowledgement of this newsletter will reflect that you have read these two sections of PS6.01.00.



Follow all LSUS and Departmental Rules

From the Safety Guy.....

And just like that another academic year has arrived. For those who were away in the summer, you will notice several renovations in progress across campus. Please be careful around these areas and report any unsafe conditions that the contractor may not be addressing. Safety Guy is concerned about the rash of injuries discussed on page 1. Although most of these were relative minor, remember the "Safety Pyramid" which theorizes that a major injury is probable after a number of minor injuries (see page 3). Let's commit to lowering the number of work injuries at LSUS. Very few things keep the Safety Guy awake at night (he is aging!) but the possibility of a lab accident is one of them. As the article below points out, lab incidents can be deadly. If you are involved with one of our teaching or research labs, please read LSUS Policy Statement for guidance on safety requirements. I hope everyone has a great and SAFE fall semester.

SG

Campus Lab Accidents CAN Happen

What do hazardous chemicals, inexperienced students, and inattentiveness have in common?.....these are all potential contributors to a campus lab accident. While LSUS has not had a serious lab accident, lab accidents occur nationwide on a frequent basis. Here are a few examples:

6/29/2010 - lab fire at the University of Missouri injures 4 students

12/29/2008 - lab fire at UCLA kills one student

5/25/2010 - explosion at the University of Delaware injures one student

4/12/2011 - Yale student killed by lab equipment

5/10/2010 - lab fire at SMU injures one student

10/14/2009 - cyanide spill at Baylor University forces evacuation

1/16/2010 - lab explosion at Texas Tech injures one student

7/26/1995 - lab explosion at MIT injures one student

4/9/2013 - 13 hospitalized following chemical lab incident at Colorado College

LSUS Policy 6.08.00 addresses Hazard Communication and the Chemical Safety Program



LSUS Policy 6.08

Requires departments to:

- conduct lab safety training for students/employees**
- maintain list/location of hazardous materials**
- maintain SDS on all hazardous materials**
- Report spills & incidents immediately**

Flu Shots...Save the Date!!

What: 2018 Annual Enrollment Benefits Fair and Flu Shots

When: Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 1PM to 4PM

Where: UC Ballroom

Check your e mail for details from HR Management



The “Safety Pyramid” - Are Accidents Predictable?

Everyone has had a “close call” such as a scratch, cut, or a slip. According to the findings of several studies, such a close call is actually a serious accident giving advance notice that it is coming.

In 1929, William Heinrich developed the Heinrich Accident Triangle to explain the relationship between hazards, close calls, minor injuries, major accidents, and fatalities. As shown in the diagram below, Heinrich postulated that the relationship between hazards and close calls was 10 to 1 and the relationship between close calls and minor injuries was also 10 to 1. Furthermore, his research indicated a 10 to 1 relationship between minor injuries and major injuries as well as a 30 to 1 relationship between major injuries and fatalities.

In the 1960s, Frank Bird, Director of Engineering Services for the Insurance Company of North America expanded on the work of Heinrich by analyzing 1,753,498

see diagram below).

In 2003, Conoco-Phillips conducted a similar study finding a relationship between the number of serious accidents and near misses/close (see diagram below).

While the numbers of each study vary, what emerges is a definite relationship between hazards, minor injuries, and serious injuries/fatalities. For example, Heinrich’s data suggests if LSUS had 3 accidents last year that were serious enough to report (which we did), 300 unsafe conditions that we do not know about exist and cannot therefore be corrected. Carrying this example further, a mere

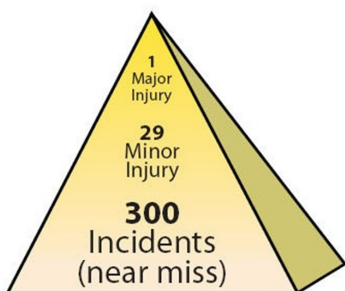
models can be debated, what we, as LSUS staff, faculty, and students need to take from this theory is the importance of identifying and reducing the number of unsafe conditions. Unsafe conditions range from physical hazards (slippery floor, office clutter), to behavior hazards (not wearing safety glasses, not following proper procedures) to training hazards (inadequate safety orientation, supervision).

Reducing unsafe conditions is everyone’s responsibility. Resist the temptation to ignore an unsafe condition or to think that surely someone else will address it. Remind fellow employees and especially students of the need to follow LSUS safety policies and procedures. If you think it might be unsafe, it probably is. Do not hesitate to report possible unsafe conditions.

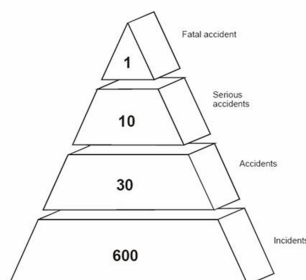
Are Accidents Preventable.....you decide.



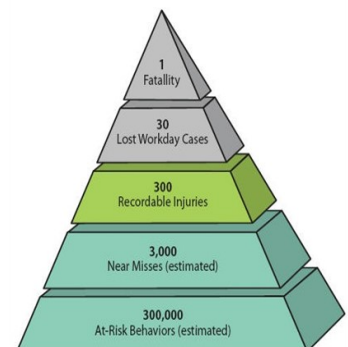
Report Unsafe Conditions!!



Heinrich 1929



Bird 1969



Conoco—Phillips