



SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Tornadoes....Our Greatest Threat!!!

Here is a flash from the Weather Channel: “ 10 Feb 2013 ...A tornado is confirmed to have touched down in Hattiesburg, and damage is being reported on the western side of the University of Southern Mississippi, according to Joanne Colin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. The university has declared a state of emergency on campus. According to the USM website, “if people are not already on campus, they are advised not to return until further notice.”

Of the many threats faced by LSUS, tornadoes pose the biggest potential for rapid loss of life and extensive property damage. In north-west Louisiana, spring tornadoes are common and frequently cause severe injury and death in addition to extensive property damage. Unlike hurricanes or ice storms, tornadoes are unpredictable and strike with little warning. Should LSUS receive a tornado warning from the National Weather Service, Campus Police will broadcast instructions on the campus PA system. Follow these instructions. It is possible, however, that a tornado may strike without any prior warning so be familiar with the general precautions cited below.



USM tornado damage from earlier **THIS YEAR**

When a Tornado Approaches

Move to the ground floor, center hall of the building

Close doors as you leave

Stay away from glass windows and doors with glass panes

Do not use the elevator

Do not leave the building or attempt to drive



Topic of the Month....Student Travel

Scenario: You are the Faculty Advisor for a student organization and want to send 5 students to New Orleans for a professional conference. Due to schedule constraints, no faculty or staff members are available to accompany them. Two students volunteer to drive the group to the conference in their own vehicles. Because students are not considered employees, you call the Safety Guy about what is necessary from a risk management perspective. After complimenting you for thinking of this well before the date of travel, here are the steps he specifies:

1. Have all students sign a Hold Harmless Agreement. The form is found on the HR website. Completed forms should be retained at the departmental level for one year.
2. The students driving must be on the LSUS Authorized Drivers List. To do this the Driver Authorization Form (on HR website) must be completed by the student and initialed by the faculty advisor. The student must take the Defensive Driving Course off the HR website and print a certificate when completed. The Authorization Form and Certificate, along with a copy of the student's proof of insurance for the vehicle being driven should next be sent to the campus Police (ATTN: Janice). The campus Police will run DMR report and place the student on the Authorized drivers List if there are no major violations.
3. Students driving privately owned vehicles must complete the Certificate of Privately Owned Vehicle which is found on the HR website. These forms should be retained at departmental level for one year.
4. The faculty advisor should complete the Request for Trip travel Insurance listing all students who will be traveling. After making payment for the Trip Travel Insurance at the cashier's cage, a copy of the Request should be given to HR. Note that this insurance costs 8 cents per day per student and provides about \$3000 in medical coverage. This coverage is mandated by the LSU System.
5. Should an accident occur at any time during the trip, the students should immediately report this to the LSUS Campus Police in addition to local authorities, regardless of the amount of damage or injury.



Hopefully not a LSUS student!!

Its Back.....Ethics Training!!

In 2011, the Louisiana Legislature mandated that all state employee must have a minimum of one hour of Ethics Training annually. This required on line training is available through the following link: <http://eap.ethics.la.gov/EthicsTraining/login.aspx> The username and password used last year are still valid. Please log on and take the training and then print a certificate of completion to send to HR (faxing and e mail is fine).

Note from the Safety Guy: Last years Ethics Training gained a reputation for not being very "dynamic". Little has changed in this year's training. This requirement is not an original thought on the part of the Safety Guy



Have you completed your annual on line Ethics Training like me...be honest!

From the Safety Guy.....

It is a time of change at LSUS. In addition to the spring flowers, warmer weather, and pollen, we are working on many changes ranging from the LSU 2015 plan to the possibility of 8 week academic terms. Some things, however, remain unchanged. Among these is the cause of the vast majority of accidents and injuries on our campus. ***SLIPS AND FALLS CONTINUE TO BE CAUSE OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR INJURIES!*** The reasons LSUS folks slip or fall vary from poor footgear to slippery surfaces to “texting while climbing”. ***All*** slip and fall accidents are preventable – please be attentive, especially in stairwells.

Beginning with this edition, there is a new feature in the LSUS Safety Newsletter – guest columnists! Please see the piece below authored by Dr. Helen Taylor who graciously offered to be our inaugural guest columnist. I encourage any member of the LSUS family to submit appropriate articles to the Safety Guy for publication. In addition to a great Vita entry, it might even win you the highly coveted LSUS Safety Recognition Award!

Please pay attention to the article on page 2 concerning Ethics Training. In addition to mandating annual Ethics Training for all state employees, the Legislature now requires all state employees to receive Sexual Harassment training once a year as opposed to once every 5 years under the previous policy. Watch for more information from Human Resources on this in the near future.

Take care and have a very enjoyable and **SAFE** spring break!

Safety Guy

Caution: (Resident) Aliens Are On Campus!! **Courtesy of Dr. Helen Taylor**



Do you ever stop and think about the safety of foreign nationals on our campus? Have you wondered about the well being of the Resident Aliens among us? Well, perhaps you should. Those of us who teach or take classes here at LSU-S and who are from someplace else are often at risk from your behavior. If a faculty member from the UK or Australia, for example, comes out of a particularly invigorating class on Chaucer and is still musing on Boethian philosophy as she enters the stair well, she might absentmindedly start down the staircase on the left-hand side. After all, in the UK, traffic drives on the left side of the road, and therefore passengers walk on paths or on stairs on the left-hand side. It is very inconvenient for this aforementioned faculty member if a student late for class comes barreling up the stairs on the right-hand side and knocks the aforementioned faculty member to the ground. That is simply not safe. Similarly, do not misconstrue the slang terms that foreign faculty use and become overly aggressive. If a Brit (and there are more of us about than you think) says to you “Wotcha mate!” he or she is merely saying hello, not saying “watch it!” as some on campus have thought. Do not be rude or aggressive back and threaten the health of your interlocutor. As you can see, then, there are several areas of concern when it comes to the safety of your foreign colleagues; please help to keep them happy and in one piece!