

# SAFETY NEWSLETTER

## 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:

4/24/2013 - lab explosion injures 12 students at Colorado College

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

### **LSUS Policy 6.08**

#### **Requires departments to:**

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



*Is there an accident lurking here?*

***LSUS Policy 6.08.00 addresses Hazard Communication and the Chemical Safety Program***

# LSUS General Safety Rules

Each year, LSUS is required to conduct training on the General Safety Rules which are listed below. The General Safety Rules are located in LSUS policy 6.01 which may be found on the LSUS website. Please read our rules and direct any questions to the Safety Guy

1. No smoking inside any campus building, or within 25 feet of any building entrance
2. Horseplay and fighting will not be tolerated in the work place.
3. Before beginning work, notify your supervisor of any permanent or temporary impairment that may reduce your ability to perform in a safe manner.
4. Operate equipment only if you are trained and authorized.
5. Immediately report any recognized potentially unsafe condition or act to your supervisor.
6. Immediately report accidents, near misses, and property damage to a supervisor regardless of the severity.
7. Report any smoke, fire, or unusual odors to your supervisor immediately.
8. Use proper lifting techniques. For objects exceeding 50 pounds in weight, the immediate supervisor shall determine specific methods for safe lifting.
9. If your work creates a potential slip or trip hazard, correct the hazard immediately. Special attention should be paid to electrical cords that stretch across walkways.
10. Fasten restraint belts before starting any motor vehicle.
11. Obey all driver safety instructions.
12. Comply with all traffic signs, signals, markers, and persons designated to direct traffic.
13. Adhere to departmental rules regarding first aid, evacuation routes, and fire department notification.
14. Adhere to departmental rules and procedures specific to departmental operations.
15. Assist and cooperate with all safety investigations and inspections and assist in



**Instructions for completing Ethics and Sexual Harassment may be found on the HR web site ([Training Information](#)). These two separate courses are required annually for all state employees.**



*Done your annual training???*

## NOTICE TO LSUS EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS

The LSU Shreveport campus has natural gas pipes located underground throughout the campus. The gas is used for heating buildings, water and preparing food in the University Center building. The natural gas is purchased from CenterPoint Energy at a single metering point located in the southwest corner of the campus. From this point there is a single 2" steel gas line underground delivering gas to the following buildings: Central Utility building, Physical Plant, Physical Plant office, Science Building, backup generator, Fine Art Complex, University Center, Health & Physical Education Building and museum. The natural gas being delivered from CenterPoint Energy has an odorant chemical applied to the gas so it can be detected by smell if a leak should ever occur. If anyone on the campus of LSU Shreveport smells a gas leak or suspects a leak, they should contact the LSUS Campus Police at (318) 455-5497 as soon as possible.

### *From the Safety Guy.....*



It is hard to believe that another academic year has already ended. It has been a year of ups and downs in the safety arena. The year began with LSUS achieving a 100% on the full Risk Management audit from the state, but ended with several employees injured in a rash of accidents. This should remind all of us that accidents can happen at any time to anyone. All accidents are preventable. Be careful this summer - wear sunscreen, stay hydrated, don't text/drink and drive, and most importantly, return safely to campus for the next semester.

If you have not completed your Ethics and Sexual harassment training, remember this training is mandatory every year for all state employees. Remember that these are two separate classes. Instructions may be found on the main HR web page.

It has been some time since the Safety Committee has received a nomination for the LSUS Safety Recognition Award. This highly coveted award may be awarded to any member of the LSUS family that has helped make our campus safer. Nominations may be made to any member of the Safety Committee or directly to the Safety Guy in HR.

Have a great (and safe!) summer.

*Safety Guy*

## Thinking About Retirement??



### Cost of Continuing Health Insurance into Retirement

One of the benefits of working for the State of Louisiana is that employees can continue their health insurance into retirement. Generally, the longer an employee has paid into Louisiana state health insurance; the state will pay a larger portion of health insurance premiums once the employee retires. This little known fact is referred to as the "Retiree Participation Schedule." Many LSUS employees are considered "grandfathered." Employees who have had Louisiana state health insurance continuously before January 1, 2002 are considered "grandfathered" and the retiree participation schedule does not apply.

For employees beginning state health insurance participation or re-joining on or after January 1, 2002, the portion of health insurance that the state will pay is based on the number of years that the employee participated in a Louisiana State Office of Group Benefits health plan (PPO, HMO, LSU First, Medical Home, HDHP with HSA).

### Retiree Participation Schedule

Years of Participation	Percentage of State Subsidy
Less than 10 years	19%
10 years or more, but less than 15 years	38%
15 years of more, but less than 20 years	56%
20 years or more	75%

### RETIREE PARTICIPATION APPLIES

**Scenario #1:** Mary Gary is a 63 year-old employee who has worked at LSUS for 33 years and will retire from LSUS in October 2014. She has LSU First Option 1 health insurance (employee only level of coverage). Mary has only had state health insurance for a total of eight years. Since Mary elected health insurance after January 1, 2002, the retiree participation schedule will apply. The state will pay 19% of the total cost and Mary is responsible for 81%. Mary is too young for Medicare and will fall under the category of "Retired No Medicare." The total cost of her health insurance after she retires is \$1052.52 per month. The state will pay 19% of the total cost or \$199.98 per month. **Mary is responsible paying for 81% of the total cost or \$852.54 per month.**

### RETIREE PARTICIPATION SCHEDULE DOESN'T APPLY – EMPLOYEES ARE "GRANDFATHERED"

**Scenario #1:** Dr. Suess is a 60 year-old employee who has been employed at LSUS for 18 years and plans to retire in June 2014. Dr. Suess elected the health insurance when he was hired. He has had state insurance since before January 1, 2002 and is considered "grandfathered." He currently has HMO Blue Cross / Blue Shield (employee only) health insurance. Dr. Suess is too young for Medicare and would fall under the "Retired No Medicare" category. **Dr. Jenkins will pay \$133.62 per month to continue his health insurance into retirement because he is considered "grandfathered."**

**Scenario #2:** Oprah Winfred is a 65 year-old employee who has been employed at LSUS for 25 years and plans to retire in August 2014. Oprah has PPO health insurance (employee/spouse level of coverage) and has had the insurance since she was hired 25 years ago. Oprah and her husband are both 65. Once she retires, Medicare will become their primary insurance and the PPO plan will become secondary. Oprah has had the state health insurance since before January 1, 2002. **She is "grandfathered" and will pay \$153.80 to continue their insurance into retirement.**

**Employees should consider health insurance into retirement planning as everyone's situation is different. It is recommended that employees meet with an HR representative when planning for retirement.**