



Safety Newsletter

Newsletter 2 Fall 2016

Accident in Chemistry Lab

LSU Shreveport



A LSUS student was fortunate to escape serious injury in a lab accident that occurred in one of our chemistry labs. The student was working with a syringe that contained a very small amount of a chemical with known potential to cause injury. The syringe came apart spilling its contents and releasing vapors into the air. Fortunately, the student only received minor irritations from this in his eyes. He was treated and released by medical first responders.

Here are a couple of “lessons learned” from this accident:

1. Work such as this should have been performed under the chemical hood. In this case, it was not.
2. The SDS (Safety Data Sheet) for this chemical was 28 years old and was not consulted until well after the initial exposure. By LSUS Policy Statement 6.08.00, a current SDS for any hazardous material must be readily available. Additionally, departments who maintain hazardous material are required to keep a current hazardous material inventory list on the LSUS G Drive.



Department Heads are encouraged to review LSUS Policy Statement 6.08.00 for a list of their responsibilities under our Hazardous Communication Policy

LSUS Return to Work Policy.....new required training

Last year, the Office of Risk Management directed that all agencies develop a Transitional Return to Work Program (RTW) and to provide all employees training on this program. The purpose of this program is to work with employees who are injured on the job to return to work as soon as possible. PM 70 address LSU System wide responsibilities. The LSUS RTW Policy is available at:

[LSUS Transitional RTW Program](#)

Please read both of these policies and direct any questions to the Safety Guy in HR. Your acknowledgement of this newsletter will serve as documentation that you received training on our RTW Program.

From the Safety Guy.....



Report all accidents immediately to

It has certainly been a busy fall so far. Last month, we received our full audit from the Office of Risk Management. While we did not fare as well as we usually do on this extensive audit, our score of 87% still reflects a great effort by our employees. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make sure we are able to get a discount on our annual insurance premiums for passing the audit.

One audit finding was our failure to conduct an annual fire drill. The Safety Guy accepts full responsibility for this oversight and promises that we will not forget this year.

The seasons may change but our rate of slip and fall injuries remains constant—and too high. Pay careful attention to wet surfaces and be sure to report any slip/fall hazards immediately to Facilities Services or the Safety Guy. As a campus, we have definitely improved at accident/incident reporting. When an accident, regardless of whether it involves injury is reported to the Campus Police, the accident report is used identify high risk areas of campus as well as assist in the prevention of similar future accidents.

I wish everyone a very happy (and safe!) Holiday season. Be careful when decorating....lots of slip/fall possibilities (especially from ladders), electrical hazards, and social hazards (egg nog, etc.)

SG

Our Safety Program is outlined in LSUS Policy Statements 6.01.00 through 6.18.00



Potential slip and fall accident here—be careful on slick surfaces!!

The highly coveted LSUS Safety Recognition Award is given to any member of the LSUS family who has in some way made our campus a safer place.



Nominations may be made to the Safety Guy in Human Resource Management