

Safety Newsletter

Slips and Falls Continue to Top LSUS Accident List



As evidenced by the data to the right, slips and falls continue by far to be the biggest cause of injuries on our campus. In almost all slip and fall accidents, the root cause is inattentiveness. Here are some tips to avoid becoming an accident statistic:

1. **Pay attention** when walking or using stairways - stay off your cellphone and look for hazards such as slick areas.
2. Wear appropriate footwear that offers adequate support and stability.
3. Reduce clutter in offices and classrooms
4. Immediately report hazards so that they can be eliminated before someone is injured

2016 year to date stats

- **7 injury accidents:** staff (3), faculty (1), guests (3)
- **Location of accidents:** UC (5), TC (1), Athletic Field (1)
- **Accident cause:** Slips/fall (5), other (2)

NOTICE TO LSUS EMPLOYEES & 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

FULL SAFETY AUDIT LOOMING IN FALL

LSUS is scheduled to receive a full audit of our Safety Program in early fall. This audit will cover the period 7/1/2015-6/30/2016. Doing well on this audit will result in a discount on our insurance premiums. Our Safety Program consists of 16 LSUS Policy Statements and may be found at the following link:

<http://www.lsus.edu/offices-and-services/policies-and-manuals/policy-statements>

Department Chairs and Directors should review these policies in the near future to ensure they are in compliance with all requirements on the audit checklist.

Feel free to call the Safety Guy in HR if you have any questions.

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 on campus.
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 implementing safety procedures as requested.

NOTE: Please review the Employee Safety Responsibilities in LSUS Policy 6.01.00



From the Safety Guy.....

Seems hard to believe that another school year is coming to an end. Fortunately, it has been a relatively safe year for LSUS. While we have had several employees sent to the clinic or emergency room as a result of a workplace injury, none of them have been life threatening injuries. Keep up the good work but don't get complacent—the next serious accident may be just around the corner.

As you may know, LSUS has begun participation in a program with LSU A&M for Workman's Compensation coverage. WC is insurance that covers employees who are injured on the job. This new program will require us to pay much higher deductibles for WC coverage but will also result in thousands of dollars in savings on annual premiums. This is no different than insurance on your private automobile - the key to savings is to avoid accidents so that you never are forced to pay that higher deductible. Simply put, the fewer accidents we have, the more the university saves. I think we all can relate to that in terms of our budget situation....***the dollars we save by working safely can be put to use elsewhere on LSUS.***

In early fall, the state Office of Risk Management will conduct a full audit of our Safety Program for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2016. This is a very important event for us because if we are successful on this audit, we receive a 10% discount on our insurance premiums. This equates to tens of thousands of dollars in savings to our university. Several aspects of this audit keep the Safety Guy awake at night. First, LSUS Policy 6.08.00 prescribes departmental procedures for handling and accountability of hazardous materials - Chairs and Directors who have hazardous materials in their areas should review the policy to insure they are in compliance. In particular, I am concerned about our class and research labs. Along with this goes training for students and employees who handle hazardous materials. Since the audit window closes in two months, I strongly recommend Chairs and Directors reviewing applicable policies immediately so that sufficient time is left to take corrective appropriate action if something is found out of compliance.

We have not received any recent nominations for the highly coveted LSUS Safety Recognition Award which is given to any member of the LSUS family who has made our campus safer. Along those lines, the Safety Guy will nominate (for the award) the person that makes the best suggestion on how to decrease the number of slips and falls on campus. As you note on page 1, slips and falls continue to be our biggest source of accidents and even worse, injuries. Please give Safety Guy some feedback on how to lower those injuries.....Yes, I have considered banning smart phones on campus but that probably isn't practical.

Hope you have a great (and safe!!) summer.....stay hydrated, use sun screen, no drinking and driving but still have some fun!!