



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY Environmental Health and Safety GUARDIAN

Volume 7 Issue 1

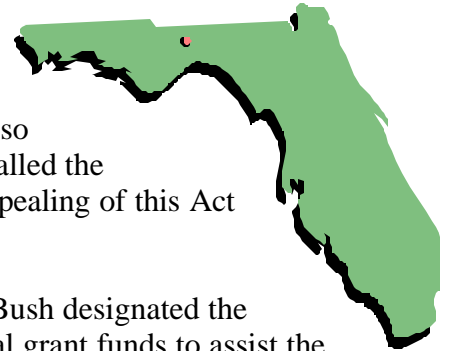
First Quarter 2001

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Florida's Workplace Safety Rules Change

Many state employees are unaware that in 1999 the Legislature enacted Chapter 99-240 that abolished Florida's Division of Safety with the Department of Labor and Employment Security. The Legislature also repealed Chapter 442, Florida Statutes, commonly called the Florida Occupational Safety and Health Act. The repealing of this Act took effect on July 1, 2000.



Following the repeal of Chapter 442, Governor Jeb Bush designated the University of South Florida as the recipient of federal grant funds to assist the private sector employers in enhancing workplace safety. Since these federal grant funds did not assist public sector employers, Governor Bush promulgated Executive Order Number 2000-292 that directs state agencies under his control to review their policies, practices and procedures concerning workplace safety and to voluntarily comply with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) that applies to state employees. Governor Bush also requested that agencies not under his direct control review their policies, practices and procedures and implement those necessary to ensure workplace safety.

Here at Florida State University we continue to adhere to the OSHA regulations found in Subparts C through T and Subpart Z. These regulations can be accessed on our website at <http://www.safety.fsu.edu>. We have also implemented numerous workplace safety policies and procedures that can be found under the Manuals section on our website.

Please take a few minutes to acquaint yourselves with these regulations and policies. As always, if you have questions or need assistance in accessing these important documents you may call us at 644-6895.

Web Page Redesign

As part of a division-wide web site redesign, EH&S's web page has a new look and new address. Our new address should be easier to remember: www.safety.fsu.edu. New manuals, links, and features were included in the redesign. We'd love to hear what you think of the new look; feel free to email us with comments, suggestions, or complaints at ehs@admin.fsu.edu.

www.safety.fsu.edu

GUARDIAN, is published quarterly by The Florida State University - Department of Environmental Health and Safety, 1012 Parking Garage Tallahassee, FL 32306-4154
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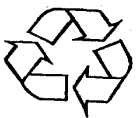
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Infant and Toddler Seats

Infant and toddler car seats can save the life of your child in the unfortunate event that you and your little one are involved in an automobile accident. The most expensive and well designed seat can be as ineffective as no seat at all if it isn't installed properly. Here are some tips and tricks to ensure that your child remains as safe as possible when riding in the car with you:

1. The safest place for car seats is in the rear seat of a vehicle; they should not be placed in the front seat of a vehicle, especially one with a passenger side air bag.
2. Infants should always ride in rear-facing seats while children 1 year of age and weighing over 20 pounds may face forward.
3. Ensure that the car seat fits in your vehicle. Not all seats fit well in all vehicles. The seat should not move from side to side or towards the front of the vehicle.
4. If your vehicle has freely moving seat belt buckles, be sure to use a locking clip (usually supplied with the vehicle and/or with the car seat).
5. Read and follow the instructions for the proper installation of car seats in both your vehicle manual and the manual that came with your car seat.
6. When your child outgrows his or her car seat or reaches 40 pounds, you should use a restraint repositioning booster seat.



The Tallahassee Police Department offers free inspections of car seats every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Call them to set up an appointment to see if yours is installed properly.

EHS Training Corner

Look to this area for information on training EHS of-fers. This quarter, we would like to highlight the fol-lowing training:

Back Injury Prevention Training

This class will introduce the concept of ergonomics and examine how back injuries happen. Additionally, techniques and methods of preventing injuries to your back will be taught.

Topics covered include:

- ? Human anatomy of the lower back
- ? Some causes and symptoms of lower back inju-ries
- ? Sample ergonomic issues found in today's work environment
- ? Some examples of proper body mechanics
- ? Exercises for home and on the job

Biomedical Waste Training

The Florida Department of Health, F.A.C. 64E-16, re-quires any person who works in a biosafety level II labora-tory or in a laboratory which generates any solid or liquid waste presenting a threat of infection to humans to have Biomedical Waste Training.



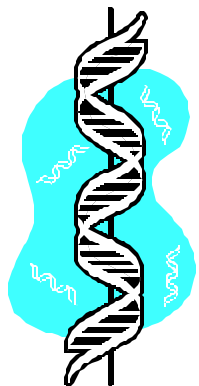
Topics covered include:

- ? Definitions of Biomedical Waste/Regulated Waste
- ? Facility policies and procedures of mixed waste
- ? Labeling, storage and containment of regulated waste
- ? Enforcement and penalties involved in the regulation

For more information on these classes or on other classes EHS offers, feel free to visit our web site at www.safety.fsu.edu/training.html.

The Human Genome Project

The Human Genome Project (HGP) began in 1990 as an effort by researchers from around the world to map and sequence the human genome. The February 15, 2001 issue of *Nature* and the February 16, 2001 issue of *Science* contain the working draft of the human genome sequence. *Nature* includes initial



analysis of the descriptions of the sequence generated by the publicly sponsored Human Genome Project, while *Science* focuses on the draft sequence reported by the private company, Celera Genomics. Additional information on the Human Genome Project can be found at www.science.doe.gov/ober/hug_top.html and www.nhgri.nih.gov/.

Chemical Cleaner Alternatives

Springtime is fast approaching and we all know what that means... It's spring-cleaning time! Unfortunately the cost of buying different household cleaners can be very costly. This is especially true for the well-used kitchen that had a tremendous work out from the holiday's cooking and baking. However, you can curb the cost by using homemade cleansers. It will save you money, help the environment and reduce under-the-sink clutter. Try the following ideas for your kitchen clean up. You'll like it.

For oven and stove cleaning, mix one-teaspoon baking soda into one pint of white vinegar. With this solution you can remove grease you find on stovetops and in your oven.

For the refrigerator, wipe out the inside of the fridge with a solution of one teaspoon baking soda in one quart of warm water. This simple solution will help get rid of smells and spills.

For window or glass cleaning, fill a spray bottle with equal amounts of water and vinegar. A little extra vinegar can make the mixture a little stronger if need be.

Building Code Administration



During the 1999-2000 Legislative session, the Florida Legislature mandated the adoption of a single Building Code governing the construction of public and private facilities in the State of Florida. This new code, known as the "Florida Building Code" is currently scheduled to become effective July 1, 2001. In conjunction with

this code, the law requires universities, community colleges, and public school districts to conduct plans review and construction inspections to enforce building code compliance.

In response to these statutory requirements, Florida State University has created a Building Code Administration section within Environmental Health & Safety. This section will coordinate plans review, issue building permits, inspect all construction for code compliance, and upon satisfactory completion, issue a final Certificate of Occupancy.

The University community should be aware that after July 1, 2001, all construction activity to be conducted on University owned or leased facilities will require a "permit" in order to initiate construction, thus necessitating the activities listed above. Questions regarding this program may be directed to Tom Deckert at 644-6895 or e-mail buildingcode@admin.fsu.edu.

EHS on the Move Again

Part of EH&S will be relocating to new offices. Biological Safety, Chemical Safety, and Radiation Safety will be moving next to the Employee Assistance Program building on Jefferson Street. The move is tentatively scheduled for April. After they vacate the space in Mendenhall, Industrial Hygiene and Building Code Administration will be occupying their old space. If anyone has any moving boxes, I hear they could use some.

IN THE NEWS....

Tetanus Vaccine Shortage



Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company responsible for manufacturing vaccines, announced it would halt production of the adult tetanus vaccine resulting in hospitals rationing the valuable commodity. Aventis Pasteur, the other major manufacturer of the vaccine, has announced it will step up efforts to increase production to fill the void left by Wyeth-Ayerst's decision. Unfortunately, a batch of the vaccine takes 11 months to brew, so relief won't be seen until early next year. The pediatric version of the vaccine has not yet been affected, however CDC officials are monitoring the supply closely.

Organic Food Defined

The Organic Foods Production Act took effect February 19th, 2001, more than ten years after its approval. The act finally defines what needs to be met for a food product to be given the label "Organic". For more info, visit the USDA's National Organic Program web site at: www.ams.usda.gov/nop/.

HISTORY REVISITED....

- 1492 Leonardo da Vinci describes a flying machine.
- 1592 Galileo Galilei builds a crude thermometer using the contraction of air to draw water up a tube.
- 1622 Slide rule invented by William Oughtred.
- 1800 Humphry Davy announces the anaesthetic properties of nitrous oxide.
- 1908 Hans Geiger and Ernest Rutherford invent the Geiger counter.
- 1938 A living coelacanth is found off the coast of southern Africa.
- 1962 John Glenn is the first American to orbit the earth.



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