

Environmental Health & Safety

MONTHLY JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (JHSC) NEWSLETTER

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(Photo by Don Campbell)

New Item

Health & Safety Board Audit

EHS has been conducting our annual audit of the health and safety boards across the St. George, UTSC, and UTM campuses. Members of the EHS team have already been contacting the co-chairs or identified members of each JHSC to inform them that we will be conducting this audit.

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Interested in joining a JHSC?

During the audit, EHS will ensure that <u>all required documents</u> are posted and will update any outdated or missing materials. In partnership with all JHSCs across the University, EHS has created a <u>list</u> of all health and safety board locations across the three campuses. As a JHSC member, if you are aware that a health and safety board has been recently installed, relocated, or if the <u>list</u> is not accurate, please contact ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca so updates can be made.

Updated JHSC Training Modules

EHS401 JHSC Orientation & EHS415 JHSC Workplace Inspection training were updated and is now available online through <u>Quercus</u>. EHS encourages new and current JHSC members to complete the training. <u>For JHSC members who submit for reimbursement</u>, please continue to obtain approval from the Manager Co-Chair prior to completing the training.

Reminders

COVID-19 and other Respiratory Illness Resources

<u>UTogether</u> is a one-stop hub of information on how the University is responding to the pandemic. For all the latest information please check the UTogether, and Safe Environment websites. The University of Toronto continually updates our frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 and our community.

he University of Toronto is committed first and foremost to the health and safety of our entire community. To achieve this, the University has developed F&S Strategies: Regular Caretaking Service Levels Strategy and COVID-19 heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) strategy. If additional information on ventilation is required, please contact EHS JHSC with the request. Please note that such requests may require weeks to complete depending on the size and complexity of the ventilation system. In the interim, locations can be assessed on a case-by-case basis

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Legionella and Ventilation Testing

We encourage interested JHSCs to regularly check the <u>Water Testing Schedule</u> for the most up-to-date information on legionella testing in their building and to contact <u>EHS JHSC</u> if a JHSC worker member is interested in attending the beginning of legionella and/or ventilation testing. You can find it on our website <u>here</u>. For more information regarding legionella, you can visit our <u>Legionella FAQs page</u>.

Reporting Health And Safety Concerns

If you have any health & safety concerns including indoor air quality (IAQ) concerns, please report the concern to your supervisor. Supervisors have responsibilities for health and safety in the workplace and workers are responsible for reporting hazards to their supervisor. EHS (ehs.office@utoronto.ca) is also available to provide support and conduct an assessment to identify workplace hazards and provide recommendations to address concerns. JHSC members who are approached by workers about health & safety concerns should also encourage workers to report their concerns to their supervisor and EHS.

Environmental Health & Safety website contains a lot of information and resources:

- Monthly JHSC Newsletter
- <u>Health & Safety (H&S) Board</u>, <u>their locations</u>, <u>required posting</u> and links for download. Please inform EHS when a board is installed/relocated as EHS conducts annual updates and audits.
- <u>Health & Safety Policy</u> and Policy with Respect to <u>Workplace Harassment</u> and <u>Workplace Violence</u> which JHSCs are encouraged to regularly review.
- <u>JHSC coverage per building</u>. Please note, updates are regularly made as units move, occupy new space, etc.
- AED Locations are listed on the <u>U of T Map</u>. For more information regarding AEDs, First Aid and First Aid Training, please see <u>First Aid Training Page</u>.
- <u>CUPE3902 Reimbursement Forms</u> for JHSC-related activities. Once approved by the manager co-chair of your JHSC, please forward a copy to <u>ehs.jhsc@utoronto.ca</u> and <u>HSO@cupe3902.org</u>.

EHS JHSC SharePoint

JHSC members can view/download minutes, inspections, etc. via SharePoint and will receive an email when minutes/inspections are uploaded. All members can also access the notices, reports, etc. via the JHSC SharePoint site. Please click here for a tutorial on how to use the new EHS JHSC SharePoint. JHSCs are reminded to regularly send relevant documents to EHS JHSC for upload.

Workplace Inspections

JHSCs are required to complete workplace inspection of part of their workplace each month such that the whole workplace is completed by the end of the year. EHS offers online training EHS415 JHSC Workplace Inspection, workplace inspection template, Workplace Inspections Tips for Before and After.

It is the area supervisor's responsibility to correct any items noted in the workplace inspection report by completing the right side of the table and submitting a completed copy to <u>EHS JHSC</u>. For re-occurring hazards, please include projected timeline for corrective action in the applicable section.

Any inaccessible areas during inspections should be noted in the report and arrangements should be made to return and conduct an inspection.

Safety Training

The University offers numerous training courses for its workers, specific to their workplace context (Administration/Facilities, Lab Environments, JHSC Training, etc.) and regularly updates the training courses on an ongoing basis. We encourage the JHSCs to review our training offerings relevant to their specific work and welcome the JHSCs to provide us with any feedback regarding training content. If you have any questions regarding relevant training required for your specific work, please speak with your supervisor. If you have any questions regarding EHS-offered training courses and related University-developed training content, please contact: ehs.jhsceutoronto.ca.

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Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available on the Asbestos Date website. For more information, please see <u>Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information</u>.

F&S Service Alerts

To receive Facilities & Services (F&S) alerts for building related-services (e.g. service outages, shutdowns, Type 2 and 3 asbestos work), please subscribe to <u>F&S Alerts</u>.

Eyewash Inspection

It is the responsibility of the lab to conduct regular eyewash flushing and documentation. For more information, please see University of Toronto <u>Safety Eyewash and Shower Standard</u>.

Interested in joining a JHSC?

Please contact <u>your JHSC</u> for any vacancies. As a reminder, in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, worker members are appointed by their respective union. For more information, please see <u>JHSC FAQs</u>. Alternatively, you can contact <u>EHS JHSC</u> or your union directly.