

## Environmental Health & Safety

MONTHLY JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (JHSC) NEWSLETTER

September 2024



(Photo by David Lee)

# **New Item**

#### Health & Safety Board Locations Map

As EHS continue our process improvement to support the JHSCs across the University (St. George, UTSC, & UTM), we created a <u>new health and</u> <u>safety board location map</u>. This map includes the locations of over 200+ health and safety boards, along with photos (*if one is available*) to provide context for their exact placement. This map aligns with our current <u>location list</u> and EHS will continue to conduct annual audits of the health and safety boards across the tri-campuses. A reminder that JHSCs are responsible for updating their respective board(s) throughout the year. Visit EHS's <u>JHSC Health & Safety Boards</u> for steps on how to use the map along with the location list.

If you notice any discrepancies in the <u>map</u>, incorrect information in the

<u>location list</u>, have questions about finding your JHSC board(s), and/or have recently installed/relocated a JHSC board, please contact <u>EHS</u>, and we will be happy to assist.

#### **Off-Campus Safety Webpage**

As the new school year begins, we encourage students, faculty, and staff to stay up-to-date on public health requirements for University-sanctioned activities. Please visit the <u>EHS Off-Campus Safety webpage</u> for a list of resources and risk assessment tools that can be used for planning.

#### **Public Transit Safety**

In addition to staying up-to-date with public health requirements, the Community Safety Office has also created <u>a list of tips to help students, faculty and staff when using the public transit systems</u> and a <u>Commuting Safely PowerPoint</u> for a safer commute.

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#### REMINDERS

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## 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.

The 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.

#### 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</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 FAOs page</u>.

#### **Reporting Health And Safety Concerns**

If you have any health and safety concerns, please report them to your supervisor. Supervisors have responsibilities for health and safety in the workplace, and workers are responsible for reporting hazards to their supervisors. EHS has an <u>Online Accident/Incident eForm</u> that should be **completed and submitted** by the worker's supervisor in the event of an incident or injury. Additionally, <u>EHS</u> is also available to provide support by conducting assessments to identify workplace hazards and providing recommendations to address concerns. JHSC members who are approached by workers about health and safety concerns should also encourage workers to report their concerns to their supervisors and/or <u>EHS</u> directly.

#### Reporting Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Concerns

As always, report any health and safety concerns to your supervisor. <u>EHS</u> can also be contacted to assess individual situations for any IAQ related questions or concerns. For more information regarding IAQ, you can visit the <u>IAQ page</u>.

**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</u> and <u>HSO@cupe3902.org</u>.

#### **EHS JHSC SharePoint**

JHSC members can view/download minutes, inspections, etc. via <u>SharePoint</u> 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 <u>click here</u> for a tutorial on how to use the new EHS JHSC SharePoint. JHSCs are reminded to regularly send relevant documents to <u>EHS</u> for upload.

#### Workplace Inspections

JHSCs are required to conduct workplace inspections each month so that the entire workplace is inspected by the end of the year. EHS offers various resources such as: online training (EHS415 JHSC Workplace Inspection), <u>Workplace Inspection Report Template</u>, and <u>Workplace Inspections Tips for Before and After</u> – full listing and resources are available through the EHS site under "<u>JHSC Listing & Resources</u>".

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.

Please review the <u>Process Table</u> and <u>FAQs</u> regarding workplace inspections.

#### **Safety Training**

The University offers numerous training courses for its workers, specific to their workplace context (<u>Administration/Facilities</u>, <u>Lab Environments</u>, <u>JHSC Training</u>, 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 <u>EHS</u>.

#### 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</u> or your union directly