

## Environmental Health & Safety

MONTHLY JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (JHSC) NEWSLETTER

November 2024 Page 1 of 3



(Photo by David Lee)

# **New Item**

### Winter Shoe Safety

With winter approaching, it's essential to prioritize safety by choosing the right footwear. Footwear designed for icy or wet conditions should have slip-resistant soles, and grips/treads to increase traction to prevent slips and falls.

The right footwear can provide the necessary traction and stability in unpredictable weather conditions and can also protects your feet from injuries.

EHS has also created a "<u>Winter Safety Poster</u>", highlighting tips such as Clearing walkways, wearing proper footwear, and staying aware of conditions. We encourage our JHSC community to provide/distribute this poster accordingly.

If you noticed slippery/uneven/unsafe paths (both indoor and outdoor), immediately contact: 416-978-3000 (St. George) / 905-828-5301 (UTM) / 416-287-7579 (UTSC)

#### Naloxone

In our continue support of naloxone kits in the workplace under Regulation 559/22 in the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA), if the University becomes aware, or should reasonably be aware, of a worker who may be at risk of an opioid overdose at a workplace where they perform work for the University, the University will be required to provide and maintain a naloxone kit in that workplace.

Furthering our support to the University community (including workers, students, and visitors), Campus Safety on each campus is trained on the use of naloxone kits (nasal spray) and equipped as needed.

For more information, please refer to the EHS Naloxone page.

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

#### **NEW ITEMS**

Winter Shoe Safety

Naloxone

#### REMINDERS

Response to COVID-19

Legionella and Ventilation Testing

Reporting Health And Safety Concerns

Reporting Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Concerns

University of Toronto, EHS Websites

Workplace Inspections

Safety Training

Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Work

F&S Service Alerts

Eye Wash Inspection

**Emergency Preparedness** 

Interested in joining a JHSC?

November 2024 Page 2 of 3

# **Reminders**

Respiratory Illnesses [e.g. Influenza (flu), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), COVID-19, and etc.] EHS provides resources for <u>managing respiratory illnesses</u> such as flu, RSV, and COVID-19, and etc. These include guidelines on vaccination, self-screening tools, informational posters, procedures for illness management, and protocols for returning to campus. For further questions, please reach out to <u>EHS</u>.

### 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 supervisors. Supervisors have responsibilities for health and safety in the workplace, and workers are responsible for reporting hazards to their supervisors. EHS has an <a href="Online Accident/Incident eForm">Online Accident/Incident eForm</a> that should be completed and submitted by the worker's supervisor in the event of an incident or injury. Additionally, <a href="EHS">EHS</a> 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 <a href="EHS">EHS</a> 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>.
  - Campus Safety vehicles are equipped with AED and first aid kits. In the event of a medical emergency, contact them after you have called 911, or direct another person to call while you call 911.
- <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 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 for upload.

November 2024 Page 3 of 3

#### **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), Workplace Inspection Report Template, and Workplace Inspections Tips for Before and After – full listing and resources are available through the EHS site under "JHSC Listing & Resources".

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 Process Table and FAOs regarding workplace inspections.

### **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.

## Type 3 Asbestos Abatement Information

Type 3 asbestos abatement air sampling results are available on the Asbestos Data 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>. Please note: Subscription to F&S alerts is currently available only for St. George at this time.

#### **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>.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

The <u>University of Toronto's Emergency Preparedness website</u> provides essential resources in responding to crisis or emergency situations for students, faculty, librarians, staff, and affected community members. This platform outlines the University's comprehensive emergency response with its <u>UTAlert</u>, <u>Campus Status & Important Contacts</u>, <u>Responding to Incidents</u>, <u>During an Emergency</u>, and <u>Emergency Preparedness</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 FAOs</u>. Alternatively, you can contact <u>EHS</u> or your union directly.