



THE EHS CONNECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER- FEBRUARY 2015

OUR ANNUAL OFPC INSPECTION IS COMING SOON...GET READY!

THE OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL (OFPC) WILL BE CONDUCTING THEIR ANNUAL INSPECTION OF OUR CAMPUS IN MARCH. EVERY STRUCTURE ON CAMPUS WILL BE INSPECTED TO IDENTIFY FIRE SAFETY ISSUES. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE SURE YOUR WORK SPACES ARE SAFE AND COMPLIANT AND KEEP THEM THAT WAY ALL YEAR!

- EXITS, HALLWAYS, AND AISLES SHOULD BE CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTION. DO NOT STORE ITEMS IN ANY OF THOSE AREAS-ESPECIALLY COMBUSTIBLES.
- LOOK AT THE EXIT LIGHTS IN YOUR AREA TO BE SURE THAT THEY ARE LIT. IF NOT, LET YOUR BUILDING CUSTODIAL STAFF KNOW OR DO AN ISERVICE REQUEST.
- EXTENSION CORDS MUST BE UL APPROVED, MUST NOT BE DAISY-CHAINED, MUST NOT BE RUN ACROSS DOORWAYS OR UNDER CARPETING. REPLACE EXTENSION CORDS WITH POWER STRIPS. PLUG POWER STRIPS DIRECTLY INTO OUTLETS
- APPLIANCES MUST BE PLUGGED DIRECTLY INTO OUTLETS.
- FIRE DOORS SHOULD NEVER BE WEDGED OPEN, AND THEY SHOULD CLOSE AND LATCH PROPERLY.
- THERE MUST BE A 24 INCH CLEARANCE FROM ANY CEILING, INCLUDING STORAGE ON TOP SHELVES.
- STORAGE AREAS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOADED. CLEAN OUT ITEMS THAT YOU AREN'T GOING TO USE.
- MAKE SURE THAT FIRE ALARM PULL STATIONS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN YOUR AREA NOT BLOCKED.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT FIRE SAFETY COMPLIANCE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR FIRE MARSHAL-TIM GANEY AT X3156.



COMMON NYS FIRE INSPECTION VIOLATIONS

- BLOCKED OR RESTRICTED EXITS
- BLOCKED OR RESTRICTED AISLES
- EXIT SIGN NOT LIT OR VISIBLE
- FIRE DOORS WEDGED OPEN
- DOORS NOT CLOSING AND LATCHING PROPERLY
- OVERCROWDING - EXCEEDING THE OCCUPANCY LIMIT
- EXTENSION CORDS MISUSED OR USED AS PERMANENT WIRING
- STORAGE ROOMS OVERLOADED
- STORAGE TOO CLOSE TO THE CEILING, FIRE SPRINKLERS, AND/OR SMOKE DETECTORS
- COMBUSTIBLES TOO CLOSE TO AN IGNITION SOURCE
- COMPRESSED GAS CYLINDERS NOT SECURED OR CAPPED
- PENETRATIONS IN WALLS/CEILINGS; CEILING TILE MISSING
- EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM TAMPERING
- COVERED OR BROKEN SMOKE DETECTORS
- FIRE ALARM PULL STATIONS BLOCKED
- CANDLES MISUSED (NOT ALLOWED IN RESIDENTIAL HALLS)
- IMPROPER STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
- ACCUMULATION OF DUST AND LINT IN LAUNDRY ROOMS
- DECORATIONS, CURTAINS AND FLAGS NOT FIRE RATED OR TREATED
- PORTABLE ELECTRIC HEATERS TOO CLOSE TO COMBUSTIBLES
- NO EMERGENCY LIGHTING WHERE REQUIRED
- BLOCKED ELECTRICAL PANEL

IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS PLEASE CORRECT THE SITUATION OR CONTACT SOMEONE WHO CAN. THEY'RE CALLED VIOLATIONS FOR A REASON: THEY PUT OUR LIFE SAFETY AT RISK IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO TRY TO KEEP SUNY OSWEGO AS SAFE AS WE POSSIBLY CAN FOR ALL WHO WORK AND LIVE HERE!

SMOKE AND FIRE DOORS

Smoke doors and fire doors create a seal that provides protection from the deadly effects of smoke and flames during a fire. Smoke doors block smoke and other combustible products, while fire doors stop flames by compartmentalizing. Many public buildings and apartment complexes have fire or smoke doors for protection in an emergency.



IDENTIFICATION

Fire doors and smoke doors are easily identified, as they are required to be clearly marked with signage. Signs will let you know the purpose of the door and how it will protect you during an emergency. You can also identify the door based on the material used to make it. Smoke doors are generally made from wood, steel, or aluminum.

Many have glass that meets specific standards. Fire doors are made from steel, and although they can contain specially manufactured glass, they are generally solid.

PROTECTION

Fire doors are designed to protect you from flames, compartmentalizing fire for between 30 and 120 minutes. Special fire-resistant seals sit between the door and the door frame, eliminating gaps that would allow the passage of flames. Although some have automatic closing devices, most fire doors remain closed so they work properly in an emergency. Most fire doors also protect from the harmful effects of smoke.

Smoke doors contain special smoke seals that block smoke in the event of a fire, however they are not designed to protect from flames. Smoke doors operate just like a normal door, although many have special closing mechanisms.

FIRE AND SMOKE DOORS CAN'T PROTECT YOU IF THEY ARE HELD

OPEN OR DO NOT CLOSE PROPERLY!

All the protection smoke and fire doors have to offer in time of fire is useless if the doors are not closed. Designed to contain smoke and fire-sometimes automatically these doors help provide occupants time to escape. On average, more than 5000 violations related to obstructed, damaged, or compromised fire doors are identified on college campuses in New York State each year.

CHECK YOUR LAMPS-DON'T EXCEED THE MAXIMUM WATTAGE!

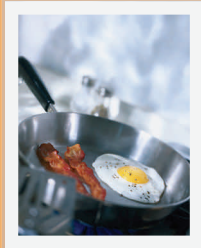
It only takes one improperly installed lamp in your light fixture to cause a fire. All too often we disregard the manufacturer's instructions and install lamps in our fixtures that exceed the maximum rated wattage. While this practice might be convenient, it is most certainly a recipe for disaster. OFPC fire and life safety inspections have indicated that this is occurring quite frequently on campuses across the state in student residence halls and business offices.

When the maximum wattage is exceeded the excessive heat generated can easily melt the shade or degrade the wiring. If this condition goes undetected a fire can result. When replacing a lamp in your fixture it is important to locate the label or consult the instruction manual to prevent this from occurring. CFL's have become a popular choice for replacing the incandescent lamp but do have some limitations. Please check the rating of the CFL to be sure it is compatible with your light fixture.



WHAT'S THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF FIRES ON CAMPUS??? **COOKING!**

Cooking related fires are more frequent on campus than those caused by any other source. Yet they can be easily prevented. Several straightforward and easily implemented steps can be taken by individuals to prevent cooking-related fires and protect themselves from injury should a cooking fire occur.



Care should be taken when cooking with oil, butter, or other greasy foods that are highly flammable and can easily splatter or spill from pots and pans. Do not attempt to extinguish grease-based fires with water as it reacts violently when poured on hot grease or oil. Small grease fires can be extinguished by placing a cover on the pan or using a fire extinguisher.

Inattention is the leading cause of kitchen fires. Never leave your cooking unattended, whether it be to leave the room, answer the phone, or chat with others. In addition, always remember to turn your burner off when the food is done.

TO SURVIVE A FIRE!!!

- **Never ignore a fire alarm. Escape every time. This one may be the real thing! That sound and your quick action may save your life.**
- **Never tamper with fire alarms or detectors. The early notification they provide may literally mean the difference between your life and death.**
- **Never waste time looking for anything you want to take with you. You have no time to do anything but escape.**
- **Never go back in. After you have escaped, stay out! There is nothing inside worth dying for.**



FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH

For a chance to win a great prize (more like an OK prize, but-hey, it's a PRIZE!), complete the Word Search and send it via e-mail to lisa.drake@oswego.edu OR through Campus Mail: Lisa Drake, 110 Lee Hall. Make sure to put your name on it! The winner for January was Patty Harrington! Look for: Annual OFPC Inspection, Fire Safety, Compliant, Obstruction, Exit Lights, Extension Cords, Power Strip, Fire Doors, Clearance, Fire Alarm, Pull Station, Violation, Overcrowding, Combustibles, Accumulation, Maximum Wattage, Escape

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QUIT SMOKING!!!

Faculty and staff members may contact the New York Smokers' Quitline, 1-866-NYQUITS (1-866-697-8487) or visit www.nysmokefree.com. Oswego Health also sponsors a free online quit-smoking program with support from certified cessation counselors; call 349-5513 to register.

Ergonomic Assessment Christine Body has been doing ergonomic assessments since 1996 and is available to do them here on campus. She can be reached at 312-2770 and would be happy to assist you with any questions or issues.