



THE EHS CONNECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER-MARCH 2015

ANNUAL OFPC FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 2ND!!!

ADAM D'AMICO FROM OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL (OFPC) WILL BE ON CAMPUS BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 2ND TO PERFORM THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF OUR CAMPUS. THE INSPECTION WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 2 WEEKS AND 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!

SLIPS-TRIPS-FALLS!!!

Wow! Walking conditions have been downright treacherous this winter. Please be careful out there and follow these tips:

- Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time.
- When walking on steps, always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.
- When walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction.
- Bending your knees a little and taking slower and shorter steps increases traction and can greatly reduce your chances of falling. It also helps to stop occasionally to break momentum.
- Streets and sidewalks that have been cleared of snow and ice should still be approached with caution. Look out for "black ice." Dew, fog or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. It often shows up early in the morning or in areas that are shaded from the sun.
- Carrying heavy items can challenge your sense of balance. Try not to carry too much--you need to leave your hands and arms free to better balance yourself.
- Be prepared to fall and try to avoid using your arms to break your fall. If you fall backward, make a conscious effort to tuck your chin so your head doesn't strike the ground with a full force.
- When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your boots as you can. Take notice that floors and stairs may be wet and slippery--walk carefully.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles--use the vehicle for support.

GUIDE TO INK AND TONER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

MOST INK AND TONER CARTRIDGES CAN BE REFILLED AND REUSED! THEY SHOULD NEVER BE THROWN IN THE TRASH. PLEASE SEND THEM VIA CAMPUS MAIL TO EHS AT 110 LEE HALL, DROP THEM OFF, OR CALL OUR OFFICE FOR PICK UP AT X3157. FOR EVERYONE'S CONVENIENCE PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE A HUGE PILE TO SEND! ALSO, THERE IS NO NEED TO USE A LOT OF TAPE TO CLOSE THE BOXES. WE HAVE TO OPEN THEM UP BEFORE SENDING THEM FOR RECYCLING. THANKS!

EXAMPLES OF RECYCLABLE CARTRIDGES TO SEND:



DO NOT SEND US TONER TANKS OR TUBES. THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTED FOR REFILLING OR REUSING. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, RECYCLABLE AS PLASTIC. THEY MAY BE PLACED IN YOUR RECYCLE BIN.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT NOT TO SEND:



DO NOT SEND: MAINTENANCE CARTRIDGES, TONER KITS, DRUM UNITS. THESE ITEMS ARE NOT REFILLABLE/REUSABLE. SOME ARE RECYCLABLE AS PLASTIC AND MAY BE PLACED IN YOUR RECYCLE BIN. MOST, HOWEVER, ARE UNFORTUNATELY NOT RECYCLABLE AND MUST BE PLACED IN YOUR TRASH.

MARCH 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 February was Melana Perkins. Look for: Fire Prevention, Annual Inspection, Fire Safety Issues, Extension Cords, Pull Stations, Obstructions, Combustibles, Power Strips, Outlets, Tim Ganey, UL Approved, Exit Lights, Fire Doors, Fire Marshal, Restricted, Candles, Lint, Dust, Slip Trip Fall, Hand Railings, Black Ice, Caution.

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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.