



# SAFETY

Environmental Health & Safety Newsletter

## CHECK THE WEB

### Fun in the Sun

Are you at risk?  
<http://www.aspa.amc.org/asp4.htm>

### EPA Inspects Universities

EPA holds universities to same standards as industry  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/pr/files/031699.html>

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## WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

### Be Prepared for Tornadoes and Severe Weather

The United States is the world capital for tornadoes as conditions favorable for tornado development most often occur over the plains during the spring and summer months. Tornadoes come and go so quickly that predicting more than 15 to 30 minutes ahead of time where and when one will hit is almost impossible. The average warning time for a tornado with winds of 158 miles an hour or faster - the type that accounts for most deaths - is 18 minutes. The most important thing is not to be caught by surprise. Plan now what to do and where to go for proper shelter.



### Weather Radio

While almost all radio and television stations broadcast watches and warnings, the best way to make sure you hear them is to

have a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio that sounds an alarm when a watch or warning is issued for any kind of dangerous weather. The National Weather Service weather radio page on the Web has more information: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm>



### How to Protect Yourself During a Storm

Tornadoes are rare, and extremely strong twisters are very rare; but you should always know what to do to protect yourself during a watch or warning.

If at work or school:

- ◆ Go to the basement or to an inside hallway at the lowest level.
- ◆ Avoid places with wide-span

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"A MATTER OF SAFETY" is published by the Department of Environmental Health & Safety. Please contact a member of the Newsletter Editorial Board if you have comments or suggestions for topics of interest to fellow readers.

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roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or malls.

- ◆ Get under sturdy furniture such as a workbench, heavy table or desk and hold on to it.
- ◆ Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

If outdoors:

- ◆ If possible, get inside a building.
- ◆ If shelter is not available or there is no time to get indoors, lie in a ditch or low-lying area or crouch near a strong building. Be aware of the potential for flooding from torrential rains that often accompany tornadic weather.
- ◆ Use your arms to protect your head and neck.

If in a vehicle:

- ◆ Never try to out-drive a tornado. Tornadoes often change direction quickly and can lift a vehicle and toss it through the air.
- ◆ Get out of the vehicle immediately and take shelter in a nearby building.
- ◆ If there is no time to get indoors, get out of the vehicle and lie in a ditch or low-lying area away from the vehicle. Be aware of the potential for flooding.



### Staying Safe After the Storm

Safety does not stop after a severe storm has passed. You should be aware of the many dangers that may exist after severe weather has moved out of the area.

- ◆ Remain calm and try to deal with immediate

problems, such as caring for injured people until professional help can arrive.

- ◆ Do not light matches or turn on electrical switches if you suspect damage. Gas leaks are quite likely where buildings have been damaged or destroyed. If you smell gas or suspect a leak, turn off the main gas valve, open windows, and get everyone out of the structure quickly
- ◆ Have utilities turned off; always have a professional turn the utility service back on.
- ◆ Stay away from downed power lines; they may still be live and you could be electrocuted. Do not attempt to touch or move any downed power lines. Keep children and pets away from fallen wires. On campus, report downed wires to Facilities Planning and Management.
- ◆ Immediately clean up or rope off dangerous areas where broken glass, unstable structures, or loose, broken or hanging tree limbs are located. Use caution when walking through treed areas where high wind or tornadoes have gone.

For more information, visit the EH&S tornado safety web site:

<http://www.ehs.iastate.edu/gensafety/tornado.htm>

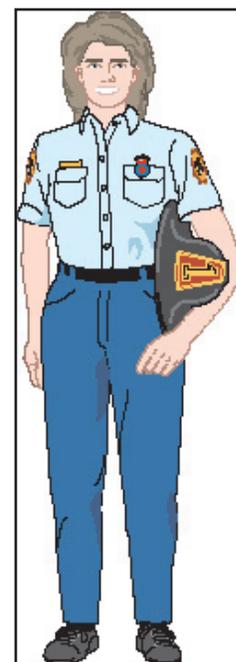
## GENERAL SAFETY

### State Fire Marshal Inspects Campus Buildings

Inspectors from the State Fire Marshal's office are currently conducting fire safety inspections of all academic buildings on the ISU campus. Annual inspections are required by state law. However, due to personnel shortages at the Fire Marshal's office, this is the first such inspection since 1995. Approximately 50% of campus buildings have been inspected. The inspectors are generally finding buildings to be improved from the last inspection due to recent changes such as new fire doors, sprinklers and stairwell compartmentalization. Unfortunately, the inspectors are finding numerous fire safety violations created by building occupants. Examples of the most common violations include improper use of:

- ◆ Door stops (to wedge open doors leading to corridors)
- ◆ Extension cords
- ◆ Space heaters
- ◆ Flammable liquids

Building occupants are encouraged to correct these violations if observed. Please



## VEHICLE SAFETY

### Seat Belts are the Cure

Forty-three thousand people in the United States lost their lives in automobile accidents in 1998.

Three times that many were seriously injured. It is estimated that one-third to one-half of these lives could have been saved, and their injuries tremendously decreased, if drivers and passengers had been wearing seat belts. Seat belts are the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries when traffic crashes occur, and are estimated to save 9,500 lives in America each year. Simply put: seat belts work. They are the "cure" to the "disease."



Trevor Rees-Jones, put on his seat belt. Police believe this last-minute action saved his life.

Lap and shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury. Occupants riding in the back of trucks are at additional risk unless they are properly protected with seatbelts. Research shows the greatest risk to humans during collisions occurs when they are ejected from vehicles. In a car, only 2% of restrained occupants are ejected, compared to 25% of unrestrained occupants. The risk to unbelted occupants in a truck accident is much higher if they are in the rear stor-

The death of Princess Diana is believed to have been avoidable if she would have been wearing a seat belt. Minutes before the accident, her bodyguard,

age compartment. The best way to limit human injury and

## ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

### Some Expired Chemicals are Hazardous Waste

Most chemicals at ISU are not considered waste until the user decides they are no longer needed. At the point in time when these chemicals are deemed waste, the user may keep them on-site for 90 days before they must be transported to the Chemical Waste Handling Facility for treatment or disposal. However, there are some chemicals that become waste as soon as the manufacturer's expiration date passes, even if the chemical has not been used. In this situation, the chemical should be picked up by EH&S within 90 days of the expiration date.

The EPA lists chemicals that are subject to these conditions as acute hazardous wastes and

toxic wastes. These chemical waste lists are included in the ISU Hazardous Waste Manual as Appendix A and Appendix B respectively. The ISU Hazardous Waste Manual is available on-line at:

<http://www.ehs.iastate.edu/publications/manuals/hazardous/hazardou.htm>

Printed copies of the lists are also included in Appendix III of the ISU Chemical Hygiene Plan.

To ensure regulatory compliance in your work area, review the EPA lists to determine if any of your chemicals are regulated in this manner. If you use or store any chemicals listed as acute hazardous waste or toxic waste, check the chemical container for a manufacturer's expiration

date. Be sure to have EH&S pick up these chemicals within the 90 days following the expiration of the chemical. For additional

#### "Used" Oil is Not "Waste" Oil

With the exception of oil, all chemical wastes generated at ISU must be labeled with the word "waste." For example, xylene must be labeled "waste xylene." The EPA requires that oil be labeled with the words "used oil." Use of the word "waste" on oil containers has resulted in violations during recent EPA inspections in Iowa.

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Below is a schedule of training sessions offered by Environmental Health & Safety for May 1999 through August 1999. Please contact EH&S at 294-2193 for registration information, class locations or other safety training questions.

### Bloodborne Pathogens

#### Exposure

6/23/99 1:30 to 3:30 PM  
6/24/99 9:00 to 11:00 AM

### Fall Protection

5/25/99 9:00 to 11:00 AM

### Fire Extinguisher

6/17/99 9:00 to 10:30 AM

### Hazardous Waste Generator

6/30/99 1:30 to 3:30 PM

### Lab Safety Series I: Chemical

#### Storage/PPE/Fume Hoods

7/7/99 8:30 to 11:30 AM

### Lab Safety Series II: How to Conduct

#### Laboratory Safety Inspections

7/14/99 1:30 to 4:00 PM

### Lab Safety Series III: Compressed

### Gases/Fire Safety in the Lab

7/21/99 2:00 to 4:00 PM

### Office Ergonomics

5/27/99 8:30 to 11:30 AM

### OSHA Eight-Hour Hazardous Waste

#### Operations and Emergency

#### Response Refresher Trainer

5/19/99 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

### OSHA Laboratory Standard/ISU

#### Chemical Hygiene Plan

5/20/99 8:30 to 11:30 AM

6/23/99 8:30 to 11:30 AM

### Personal Protective Equipment

6/3/99 9:00 to 11:00 AM

### Radiation Safety for Material Users

5/10/99 1:00 to 5:00 PM

5/26/99 1:00 to 5:00 PM

6/16/99 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

7/1/99 1:00 to 5:00 PM

8/3/99 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

### Respirator Certification

### (Initial)

5/11/99 1:30 to 3:30 PM

6/9/99 9:00 to 11:00 AM

7/13/99 1:30 to 3:30 PM

8/11/99 9:00 to 11:00 AM

### Respirator Recertification

5/12/99 9:00 to 10:30 AM

6/8/99 1:30 to 3:00 PM

7/14/99 9:00 to 10:30 AM

8/10/99 1:30 to 3:00 PM

### Safe Guarding Mechanical

#### Hazards

5/11/99 9:00 to 10:00 AM

### Sprains & Strains Prevention

7/15/99 8:30 to 11:00 AM



### **A Matter of Safety**

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