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## Environmental Health and Safety Committee

Volume #9 August, 2012  
A newsletter for and about safety at UW Oshkosh

### **FIRE DRILL!**

This is notice that the annual Fire Drill of all academic buildings will be held on September 12, 2012.

All persons are "required" to participate in these drills. The specific times of the fire drill, for each building, will not be advertised!

Spend some time today looking at escape routes and back-up routes for the buildings you may be in throughout the day.

### **A Big Thank You!**

To Stephanie Krueger who was one of our student representatives on the EH&S committee this past year. While she is resigning from the committee, she still plans on maintaining an active role on the TFC committee.

And to Rae Ann Wetzel who has completed her term on the committee but has offered continued help in an effort to promote safety on campus.

**Thanks to you both!**

## **Back to School: Safety tips for motorists**



### **Sharing the road safely with school buses.**

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation today. In fact, according to the National Highway Administration, riding the bus to school is 13 times safer than riding in a passenger vehicle and 10 times safer than walking to school. The reality of school bus safety is that more children are hurt outside the bus than inside as passengers. For this reason, it is necessary to know the proper laws and procedures for sharing the road safely with school buses:

- All 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- School buses use yellow flashing lights to alert motorists that they are preparing to stop to load or unload children. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signals to motorists that the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.
- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a school bus.
- Wisconsin state law states that traffic in the opposite direction on a divided highway is not required to stop but does apply if no barrier is present on multi-lane street or highway, in all cases, traffic behind the school bus (traveling in the same direction) must stop.
- The area 20 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Stop your car far enough from the bus to allow children the necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert. Children are unpredictable. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.

# Tobacco Free Campus

By Dana Merriman, TFC Chair

Content provided by Alex Hummel

A University of Wisconsin Oshkosh task force will survey the campus community in September 2012 to determine the level of support for going tobacco-free, campus-wide.

Funded by an American Lung Association "SPARK" mini-grant, students, staff and faculty will be asked for feedback on the potential establishment of a tobacco-free campus policy.

Surveys will be distributed by TitanApps email and participation will be anonymous and voluntary.

University administrators support the preliminary examination of whether there is campus-community backing for such a major policy change.

Task force members stressed the first, crucial step is gauging the opinions of students, staff and faculty on the use of tobacco products at UW Oshkosh, its perceived impact on the overall health of the campus community and the level of support for a tobacco-free policy.

Survey results will be widely publicized, including an open forum sometime in November.

Fifteen college campuses in Wisconsin have already adopted 100% tobacco-free campus policies, with more studying the issue just as UW Oshkosh is.

As of July 2012, 562 American college campuses reported adopting 100% tobacco-free campus policies, with another 212 adopting smoke-free policies (source: American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation).

For more information: [tobaccofree@uwosh.edu](mailto:tobaccofree@uwosh.edu)

For Alex Hummel's complete article on TFC in UWOToday <http://www.uwosh.edu/today/18133/campus-task-force-exploring-interest-in-tobacco-free-uwo/>



## Study the picture below. Can you identify what's wrong?



- 1) **Fire Extinguisher is blocked.** Fire extinguisher is blocked by the cart and not readily accessible. The cart may pose injury to employees attempting to retrieve the fire extinguisher.
- 2) **Fire Hose is blocked.** Fire hose is blocked by the cart and not readily accessible. The cart may pose injury to employees attempting to retrieve the fire hose.
- 3) **Verify that inspections have been performed.** Fire extinguishers and hoses must be visually inspected monthly, and subjected to an annual maintenance check.

### Have a safety concern?

If you see or hear of a potential safety issue, report it to any member of the Environmental Health and Safety committee.

Our job is to help ensure that we maintain a safe and healthy workplace for employees and students.