

# The Safety Net



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## Risk Awareness and Lessons Learned

—by Karen Humphrey

When I give my lab safety training, I speak of the difference between hazard and risk. *Hazard* is something intrinsic to the substance, like a solvent having the hazard of being flammable. The *risk* is the chance that a fire might occur from the use of that solvent. While we can't change the hazards of what we're working with, we can take steps to manage the risk. And the first step in that process is to be aware of the hazards and the risks of the materials around you.

In a university environment, there are many opportunities for learning lessons. Some of these opportunities are intentional, like a class that is taken, a seminar attended, or a procedure carried out.

Some of these opportunities are not intentional. We know about one form of such unintentional learning opportunity: the accident or incident. This is when something does not go according to plan, and (university) property damage or injury results. When this happens, people are informed, a report is filed, questions are

asked, and lessons are learned concerning what didn't go according to plan and what can be done to make sure it doesn't repeat itself.

Thankfully, such opportunities for learning are rare.

There is another unintentional opportunity for learning called a near miss. The near miss can be thought of as an "almost accident". Something didn't go according to plan, but it didn't lead to property damage or injury for one reason or another. While no reporting is required for a near miss, this doesn't mean that it should be brushed off.

I recommend that near misses be treated as incidents insofar as informing someone goes. The reason for this is that if you tell someone, then it can be looked at and learned from.

There are some who already take this approach to near misses, and I commend those who do. Through their proactive approach, we are able to identify areas of improvement and advance the overall safety culture of the campus. We would

much rather take this approach than have to learn lessons through the process of responding to an accident.

For those who do not already inform someone when there is a near miss, the process is easy. Simply tell someone, be it your supervisor or personnel in EH&S. We will be happy to look at what occurred and make recommendations and/or offer whatever assistance we can.

Through this process, we can work together to increase our risk awareness and learn the lessons that will benefit our campus community. Safety is truly a team effort.

## Labeling Change in BSB

Beginning this semester, chemicals coming into the Baylor Sciences Building that are either Particularly Hazardous Substances or High-Risk Chemicals will bear a round red sticker that identifies them as such. This is to alert personnel in the lab or personnel who might be borrowing the chemical that it has an elevated risk and most likely has a Standard Operating Procedure that should be reviewed before using the chemical.

## Health & Safety Resources Available for the Spring Semester

There are a number of health and safety resources that are available on campus. Many are available through the EH&S Department, while a few others are not.

CPR/AED Training is available at the Student Life Center. The fee is \$25 and the certification is valid for two years. Upcoming trainings are available:

Tuesday, February 10: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, February 17: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday, February 19: 9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, February 22: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, February 26: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, March 17: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, March 24: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday, March 26: 9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, March 29: 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday, March 31: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 2: 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, April 7: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Thursday, April 9: 9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, April 12: 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday, April 14: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, April 21: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Tuesday, April 28: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

First Aid Training is also available at the Student Life Center. The fee is \$35 and the certification is valid for 2 years. Upcoming trainings are available:

Saturday, February 21: 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
 Monday, March 23: 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Students of Concern resources are available through the Division of Student Life. The website can be accessed at: [http://www.baylor.edu/student\\_life/index.php?id=83906](http://www.baylor.edu/student_life/index.php?id=83906)

Laboratory Safety training is available from the Department of EH&S. Online refresher training is available at the user's convenience, while classroom trainings (register at: <http://www.baylor.edu/ehs/labsafety>) are available:

Thursday, February 26: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
 Wednesday, March 4: 2:30 pm-3:30 pm  
 Thursday, March 19: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm  
 Wednesday, April 1: 2:30 pm-3:30 pm  
 Thursday, April 16: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm

Laboratory Waste Management training is available upon request. Email [Cody\\_C\\_Rogers@baylor.edu](mailto:Cody_C_Rogers@baylor.edu) to request training. Cody also provides Materials Shipping (DOT & IATA) training to personnel who need it.

Radiation Safety training is available online. Please contact Karalyn Humphrey at [karalyn\\_humphrey@baylor.edu](mailto:karalyn_humphrey@baylor.edu) for more information.

Bloodborne Pathogens training is available both online and through classroom training. Please contact Brent\_A\_Jones at [Brent\\_A\\_Jones@baylor.edu](mailto:Brent_A_Jones@baylor.edu) for more information or to schedule a training.

Animal Worker Health & Safety training is available online through the Department of EH&S. Please contact James\_Karban at [James\\_Karban@baylor.edu](mailto:James_Karban@baylor.edu) for more information.

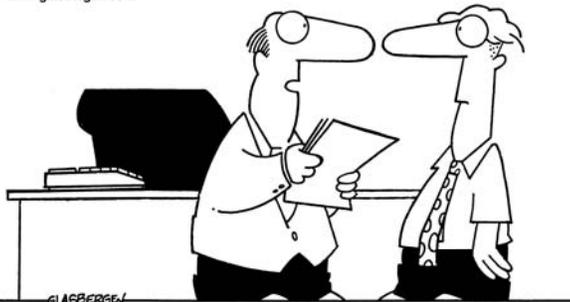
This is different than the training provided by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Their website can be accessed at: <http://www.baylor.edu/research/iacuc/>

Biological Safety is overseen by the Institutional Biosafety Committee. Access their website at: <http://www.baylor.edu/research/ibc/index.php?id=41033>

An overview of the programs offered by the Department of EH&S can be found at: <http://www.baylor.edu/ehs/index.php?id=92542>

## On The Lighter Side

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[www.glasbergen.com](http://www.glasbergen.com)



**“To conform to government safety regulations, no one may climb the ladder of success without wearing a harness and special non-slip shoes.”**

Used with permission from Randy Glasbergen

## Dear EH&S

Dear EH&S,

I want to be both safe and environmentally conscious. When is it appropriate to take the stairs, and when should I take the elevator?

-Concerned Person

Dear Person,

We commend you on your efforts to be environmentally conscious. Taking the stairs not only saves electricity, but it's also good exercise.

However, the stairs are not always the best choice for moving between floors. The vast majority of the accidents that get reported to our department are falls on

stairs. Many of these accidents could have been avoided if the available elevators had been utilized.

We recommend that elevators be used in certain circumstances. If you are carrying something, the elevator is a better option. If you are wearing high-heeled shoes, the elevator may be a better option. If your shoes are wet and slippery, the elevator may be a better option.

We're a big proponent of situational awareness. Always think about your surroundings and your circumstances, and then proceed in the way that will accomplish your task in the safest possible manner.

## Safety Brings You Home by Ginger Christ

“Safety brings you home.”

That phrase – the theme of EHS Today’s 2014 Safety Leadership Conference – is one I often hear expressed by those in the EHS field.

The words may be different, but the sentiment is the same.

It means operating safely, being proactive, avoiding risks, creating a safe culture in the workplace brings you home at the end of the day.

It’s common for such oft-repeated slogans to become hollow clichés, to lose their meaning with every casual utterance.

But this one shouldn’t.

Last week, I saw Pulitzer Prize winning journalist – and current Case Western Reserve University professor – Jim Sheeler speak.

As the featured guest during a Society of Professional Journalists event in Cleveland, Sheeler discussed his featuring writing series – *Final Salute* – that earned him the top journalism honor and more than

a fair share of tears (my own included).

In the series, Sheeler followed a casualty assistance officer for the Marines breaking the news to families that soldiers – brothers, fathers, sons – would not be coming home.

The stories offer glimpses into the lives of the families, the communities, after a soldier’s death.

Sheeler introduces us to Katherine Cathey who was pregnant when the casket carrying her husband’s body was unloaded onto the airport tarmac in Reno, who refused to leave her husband’s side during the night before his funeral, an image burned into the public’s memory by Todd Heisler’s Pulitzer-winning photograph.

The Marines, too, have a mantra: No Marine Left Behind.

“Marines will intentionally risk their own safety to aid wounded comrades, or to retrieve the remains of fallen comrades,” as the code reads.

For those Marines, death was inevitable. No amount of PPE or OSHA regulations could have protected them as they protect-

ed us.

But, for us, safety is the difference between life and death. A hard hat can save the life of a construction worker. Flame-resistant clothing can bring an electrician home after an arc flash.

Safety is our responsibility, not only for ourselves, but for our families, for our communities.

Because we have a choice.

Where those soldiers didn’t.

*Used with permission from EHS Today.  
<http://ehstoday.com/blog/safety-brings-you-home>*



## We’ve Moved!

On November 5th, 2014, the Department of Environmental, Health, & Safety moved out of the Baylor Sciences Building and set up shop in our new office suite on the second floor of Draper. This has been a very good move for us, as we’re now all housed in a single office suite—rather than being scattered over the building, as we were in the BSB.

We are still out and about on campus much of the time, as the personnel whom we serve

are scattered all over. If you wish to come by and see us, we highly recommend scheduling an appointment ahead of time.

Phone numbers (except fax) and email addresses remain the same, but the mailing and physical addresses have changed. Please update your records as follows:

### Mailing Address

One Bear Place #97290  
Waco, TX 76798

### Physical Address

Draper Academic Building  
1420 S. 7th Street  
Suite 212  
Waco, TX 76706

### Fax number

254-710-3234

**Did You Know?**

Quick facts you should know about tornadoes:

- They may strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- They may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves Southwest to Northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 mph, but may vary from stationary to 70 mph.
- Tornadoes can accompany tropical storms and hurricanes as they move onto land.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.
- Tornadoes are most frequently reported east of the Rocky Mountains during spring and summer months.
- Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May; in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3 pm and 9 pm, but can occur at any time.
- Wind speeds in a tornado may reach as high as 300 mph, and the damage path can be in excess of 1 mile wide and 50 miles long.

**Bringing Safety Home: Tornado Preparedness**

If you are under a tornado warning, seek shelter immediately! Most injuries associated with high winds are from flying debris, so remember to protect your head.

If you are in a structure:

- Go to a pre-designated area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.
- Put on sturdy shoes.
- Do not open windows.

If you are in a manufactured home or office, seek shelter in a sturdy building or tornado shelter. Mobile homes offer little protection from tornadoes.

If you are outside with no shelter:

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

Source: *Ready.gov*

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**Current Live Training Schedule:**

<http://www.baylor.edu/ehs/index.php?id=98325>

**Training Matrix:**

<http://www.baylor.edu/ehs/doc.php/203191.pdf>

*Online trainings available through Blackboard*

"The Safety Net" is published by the Department of Environmental Health & Safety and intended to share information with the Baylor community, promote transparency within the university's safety program, and encourage the continued development of a culture of safety among university employees and students.

Comments, questions, and ideas for future stories are welcomed. Email: [ehs@baylor.edu](mailto:ehs@baylor.edu)