

SAFE WATCH

Volume 1, Issue 2

A Quarterly Publication for Healthcare Staff

Summer 2006

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Winston Kerr
Detective

Robert Sweeney
Lieutenant

Phone: 4-2825

Emergency Numbers:

Dial 911 or 632-3333

Non-Fire Emergencies 911
(Major Chemical Spill/Haz Mat)

All Codes 321

Fire (Code Red) 321



University Police Staff

Contributed by Scott Law

Welcome to the second edition of Safe Watch. University Police and EH&S are very pleased with the response we have received to our first edition and we will try and maintain the high quality of our quarterly newsletter. As we move into the summer, the security articles in this issue reflect safety tips for both here at the Medical Center as well as helpful hints for home.

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to the Public Safety Security Supervisors at University Hospital. The SSA Supervisors as

they are commonly referred to, cover the University Hospital 24 hours a day seven days a week. We work with a common three-tour system with one swing supervisor to cover holidays and vacations.

A Tour Supervisors: Lew Morris and Keith Ryder

B Tour Supervisors: Helga Krieger and Alexandra Rodriguez

C Tour Supervisors: Juan Nieto and Peter Valerio

Swing Supervisor: Jerry Leigh



2006 Making Mercury Medicine Award Ceremony



Diane Buxbaum from EPA Region 2 presented the 2006

H2E Making Mercury Medicine Free Award to John S.T. Gallagher on May 4, 2006. Jill Kavoukian, Associate Director of Environmental Health and Safety welcomed the guests and thanked the hospital Hazardous Waste Subcommittee and the hospital staff for their dedication and perseverance in meeting our goals.

Our work doesn't stop here. We are asking for your support in reaching this year's goals. By the end of this year, we are committed to replacing mercury pressure switches and dilators in the hospital and considering alternatives for mercury reagents in the labs. Pharmacy already has requested thimersol-free vaccines for next year.

With your help, we can continue to meet our goals and make Stony Brook an environmentally recognized and safe place to work.



"You Got Caught Being Safe" 2006 Recipients

Contributed by Kathy Terwilliger

Congratulations to the following employees who received our "You Got Caught Being Safe" Recognition:

April winners:

Wally Workmaster, Facilities Dev.
Cynthia Tooker, Family Medicine
Christine Losee, Risk Reduction
Christine Palazzo, BME
Sarai Marquez, Housekeeping
Sydney Bryan, Distribution
Joseph Zaccaro, Chemistry

May winners:

Mauricia Mesa, Housekeeping
Frank Lombardi, HVAC
Mel Evans, Lyme Lab
Kathy Merritt, 9 South
Richwood Schurig, EH&S
Faith Cardone, Radiology

How can you be recognized as a "You Got Caught Being Safe Recipient"?

The above winners helped the hospital meet its health and safety goals by being caught:

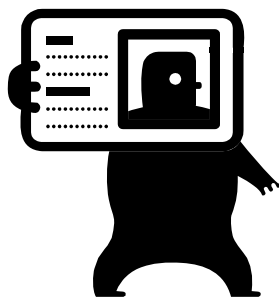
- Updating their MSDS book.

- Reminding hospital staff of proper PPE to use in construction areas.
- Providing immediate assistance during the EPA award ceremony.
- Safely operating a forklift.
- Removing fluorescent bulbs from the trash and contacting EH&S for proper disposal.
- Identifying mercury-containing equipment for removal.

Congratulations to all our Recipients!

University Hospital ID Policy

Contributed by Scott Law



As all of you are aware, the University Hospital Policy on ID's states that all employees

while in the University Hospital must wear their Stony Brook ID on their outermost garment and above the waist. Employees should confront individuals in the work area or on their floors that do not have ID's or visitors passes and direct them to the security desk on level 5 of the

University Hospital. If individuals refuse to comply, do not place yourself in a dangerous situation. Simply get a description of the person, the direction they are traveling and call University Police at 911. A University Police officer or Security Officer will be sent to investigate the situation.



Do You Know the Answer?

What is the phone number to call if you have a major chemical spill (Haz Mat number)?

Answer: Check you stickers on your phone for the HazMat Number: **911**

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New Emergency Phone Stickers

Contributed by Kathy Terwilliger



EH&S developed and is now distributing new emergency phone number stickers for all UH telephones. The sticker reads:

Stony Brook University Hospital
For All Codes Dial 321
Fire (Code Red) 321
Haz Mat 911 Police 911

Please make sure one has been affixed to your phone handle. If your department needs these stickers please contact EH&S at 4-6783.

MSDS Books

Contributed by Annette Falcetta



All University Hospital Departments are required to have site specific Material Safety Data Sheets

(MSDS) books in an accessible location. To update your book or search for a missing sheet, go to Inside SBUH to access MSDS on-line, click on "Manuals" and select MSDS.



Tip of the Month

Students at Work—Safety First!

Remember Managers! Train your student employees in safe work practices on the job.



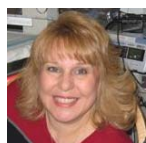
Construction Update

Contributed by Scott Law

The Major Modernization Program is presently in Phase 2. Construction will be focused on our temporary bridge and entry. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic changes that have been implemented are:

- The modified traffic circle, opened in Phase 1 for bus and valet traffic, has been condensed.
- The **valet station** has been moved to inside the hospital parking garage (within the new drop off area). Green valet signs will be placed for way-finding.
- Two additional traffic officers have been deployed from West Campus to aid in traffic safety and control.
- The **bus station** has been relocated to in front of the new concrete sidewalk next to the hospital parking garage.
- Lastly, **all taxis** will now pick up and drop off at the new Patient Discharge Area on Level 2. Please help to communicate this information with staff and patients, and if calling a taxi make the appropriate arrangements with the taxi service.

EH&S Healthcare Staff



Annette Falcetta, better known as the Right To Know Trainer, has been promoted to our new Healthcare Industrial Hygiene and Safety Specialist. Annette's holds a Bachelor's degree

in Community Health and Human Services and is a Certified Healthcare Safety Professional. She has over 20 years experience in healthcare in both the laboratory and training fields. Annette has been the hospital's training specialist for the

last 5 years. In her new role, you will still see Annette training but she will be more involved in the occupational exposure monitoring, respiratory protection, indoor air quality, and industrial hygiene programs.



Sharps Injuries Trends

Contributed by Kathy Terwilliger

SBUH Contaminated Sharp Injury Data:

We have had a slow decline in sharps injuries since 2001. In 2005, we had a total of 107 sharp injuries. However, in the first quarter of 2006, we have had 44 sharp injuries, with the majority occurring during use. If this first quarter number is representative of what we will experience the rest of this year, sharp injuries appears to be on the rise. Education is key

to prevention along with safe work practice and proper activation of safety devices.

Increased Risk of Sharps-related Injury Exposures are associated with:

1. Anger (conflict with another employee or patient).
2. Distractions (often interactions with co-worker while performing procedures).
3. Multiple attempts (during phlebotomy, ABGs, IV catheter insertions, CV catheter

placement, lumbar punctures).
4. Rushing (staffing ratios?).

[source: Fisman DN. Am J Med; 2003;114: 688-94]

Some sharps injury prevention tips:

"Cool off" after interpersonal conflict and before attempting procedure involving sharps. Limit distractions and conversations during sharps use. Don't disturb a colleague while they are using a sharp. Take your time, don't rush!



Home Electrical Safety

Contributed by Kathy Terwilliger

LIPA urges everyone to check their home for unsafe conditions:

- Check outlets for loose fitting plugs which can overheat and lead to fire.
- Never staple electric cords to any object.
- Do not place cords in high-traffic areas under carpets, rugs, or furniture.
- Check the wattage of bulbs in all light fixtures to make sure they are correct for the size of the fixture.
- Never allow electric appliances to come in contact with water; if one falls into water, never reach to pull it out, even if it is turned off...turn off the circuit breaker first.



Summer Safety Tip

Contributed by Scott Law

Preventive Ideas to Safeguard Children:

- Never leave children unattended.
- Never pass a stopped School Bus. Stop means stop, children may be crossing so be careful.
- During the summer, be very careful around Ice Cream trucks. Reduce your speed and be extremely cautious, remember small children will dart out to the truck.
- Discuss scenarios with your children – review with them what to do if they get lost in a shopping mall, busy street or other crowded area.
- Keep up to date photos of your children – school photos are best.
- Work with the local Police Precinct and have your child fingerprinted.
- Make sure your child has your home address and phone number memorized. Make sure they know how to reach you by phone.
- Teach kids 911, in order to call for help in an emergency.
- As we head into the summer months, we cannot forget to emphasize Water/Pool safety. Please review water/pool safety with your child. Remember, children often visit friends who may not have the same water/pool safety rules you have. Insure that your child knows your rules and that anyone you leave your child with understands their abilities and limitations when it comes to water/pool safety. If you have a pool, make sure your gates lock and your children know not to have friends in the pool without adult supervision.