MS IHL OFFICE OF INSURANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

"There are risks and costs to a program of action, but they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction." *President John F. Kennedy*

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SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL NEWS

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THE TRUE JOY IN LIFE

"This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as I live it is my privilege - my privilege to do for it whatever I can.

I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I love. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me; it is a sort of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."

George Bernard Shaw

CHARACTERISTICS OF A POSITIVE SAFETY CULTURE

In an article in the *Perspectives* newsletter, published by the American Society of Safety Engineers, William J. Hinderks describes elements of what he views as a good safety program. He points out that there are no cookie-cutter loss control solutions just as there are no generic organizations. The universities within our system are a perfect example, where the range of activities, organizations and risks confronted is seemingly endless. This makes defining one good safety program difficult, but we know one when we see one. Rather, Mr. Hinderks suggests taking a look at the safety culture of an organization to determine if it's moving in the right direction.

Here are some characteristics of a positive safety culture for you to use as a self-assessment tool:

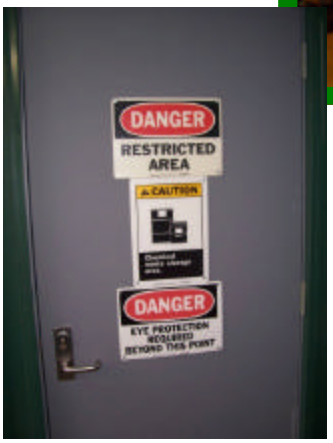
- Vision and mission statement place safety as a high priority.
- People at all levels of the organization are aware of the risks associated with their work, understand the proper methods to address the risk, and take appropriate precautions to protect themselves and others.
- Performance measures are focused on success rather than failure. People are recognized for doing the right things properly.
- Communications on all subjects, including safety, readily flow upward, laterally and downward.
- The agency purchases good equipment (especially personal protective equipment), maintains it, and all evidence indicates that it is properly used.
- No priority ever supersedes safety.
- Personnel at all levels describe safety as being their individual responsibility.
- Injuries and property damage losses are viewed as failures.
- Incidents are not considered a matter of chance, but rather preventable events.
- Others view the agency's effort as a model.
- Employees "coach" one another, in effect watching each other's backs.

Mr. Hinderks is clear to say that not every trait applies to every organization, but uses these examples to describe a pattern that would indicate an organization is serious about creating and maintaining a campus that is safe for its students, faculty, staff and visitors. Feel free to add to his list!

PICTORAL OF SAFETY AND LOSS CONTROL OBSERVATIONS

Terry Coggins pouring hazardous waste at MSU

MVSU hosts Leflore County Emergency Management exercise in preparation for possible flu pandemic.



More serious signage on the door to chemical waste storage at Ole Miss. Warning - instruction - protection.

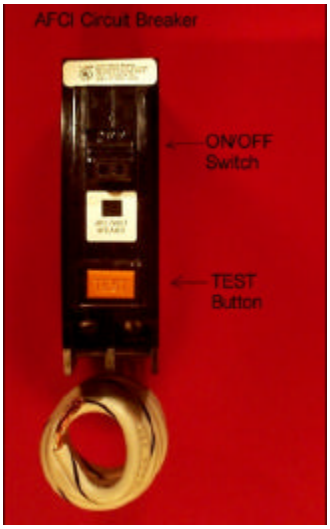
First Aid instructional gear packed and ready to come to your campus. Call Andy at 601-432-6659 to arrange a free class.

Some serious signage on the door to the radioactive waste storage area at Ole Miss.

Mystery Photo - can you identify the subject of this photo? Hint: it's a naturally occurring structure. See page two for answer.

ARC FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) are newly-developed electrical devices designed to protect against fires caused by arcing faults in electrical wiring. When unwanted arcing occurs, it generates high temperatures that can ignite nearby combustibles such as wood, paper, and carpets. Arcing faults often occur in damaged or deteriorated wires and cords. Some causes of damaged and deteriorated wiring include puncturing of wire insulation from picture hanging or cable staples, poorly installed outlets or switches, cords caught in doors or under furniture, furniture pushed against plugs in an outlet, natural aging, and cord exposure to heat vents and sunlight.



Conventional circuit breakers only respond to overloads and short circuits; so they do not protect against arcing conditions that produce erratic current flow. An AFCI should not trip during normal arcing conditions, which can occur when a switch is opened or a plug is pulled from a receptacle.

The AFCI should not be confused with the GFCI or ground fault circuit interrupter. The GFCI is designed to protect people from severe or fatal electric shocks while the AFCI protects against fires caused by arcing faults.

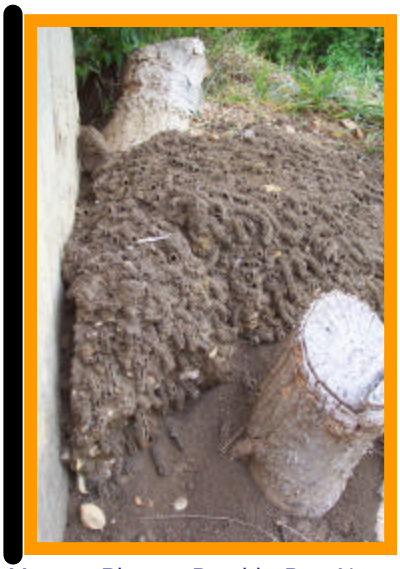
Source: US Consumer Product Safety Commission

MORE PHOTOS FROM THE SAFETY & LOSS CONTROL WORLD

USM's Gulf Coast Research Lab (GCRL) has continued to conduct research, instruct students and serve the public while cleaning up, rebuilding and recovering from Hurricane Katrina. The laboratory on the right looked like the one on the left after Katrina. The people at the GCRL are a testament to the spirit of hard work, determination and perseverance that make all Mississippians proud.

Each campus within our system has been working hard on campus disaster plans. The IHL Board and University Presidents recently approved a mutual aid agreement among universities to support these plans. Representatives from each university will meet again in June to continue improving the plans. MSU will host the meeting.

Even more signage. This sign at USM's storage area for useable chemicals is quite informative. When finished reading, a faux chemistry degree is in order!



Mystery Photo - Bumble Bee Nest at MSU

Cousins of the Honey Bee, Bumble Bees are common and conspicuous insects; yet most people have never seen the fascinating bustle of activity in the nest of the bumble bee. Inside the nest, a colony of these social insects may number 200 or more. Members engage in most of the activities of a human society (gathering food, caring for offspring, constructing a home, defending it, and regulating the environment inside it). Bumble bees have very few natural enemies, skunks being one of the few animals that find bumble bees tasty, sting and all. The bees were flying in and out like a busy airport as the photos were taken. The nest is usually underground and out of sight.

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