



## DIRECTOR'S LOG

By Mike Durham.

New fiscal year – new challenges.... Most people do not consider July 1 be New Year's Day, but to the financial and accounting folks at LSU and many other agencies, as well as to most companies around the state and world, July 1 is indeed the first day of a new year. It is the day we start anew on budgets, spending, and finalizing plans and goals that we want to accomplish during the next major interval in our life as a university. A new year, and new challenges to get through it. In preventing injuries and damages to our property, we are continuing a transition to more active control of our claims, our insurance procedures, and our accident investigation and handling processes.

Property protection is a key component of our safety program on campus. The term property protection may seem somewhat removed from everyday discussion, but it can be boiled down to fire prevention, security, and maintenance of our buildings so that they withstand any challenge from the elements and from use. It is a collaborative effort between each of us, our building coordinators, the State Fire Marshal, Facility Services, and our EHS team. It consists of preventive measures taken to make sure the buildings and grounds are safe for occupants, and safe from the impacts they have to withstand, such as wind and rain. Good maintenance and inspection of these properties are key means of protecting our property. Security of the buildings against unauthorized entry is also an important element in this effort. Our property insurance is high, measured in the millions of dollars, and we need to stay vigilant and effective in our property protection programs.

Campus liability issues are too numerous and complex to mention and address in this column. It suffices to say that our campus faces more and more risk today as tort liability for injuries and other claims pose critical threats and makes us vulnerable. Issues not known to be problems in the past are now taking center stage in risk discussions. Consider the Virginia Tech shooting, the Penn State debacle and you can easily see the vulnerability of universities to issues not generally considered to be significant in the past decades. New issues, such as harm to individuals from cyber bullying or slanderous comments, loss of critical data and research through failures in the information networks, theft or loss of identities of staff and students, the list goes on and on.

Work injury prevention is also an important emphasis in our new year. We are expecting to take a much larger role in handling our work injuries as the year unfolds. We plan to have a [revised policy](#) in place soon to enable us to more closely control absences from work due to injuries, to evaluate accident causes and remedies, and to get employees back to work as soon as possible after injuries. New approaches to return-to-duty processing along with close tracking and control of our medical treatment and drug screening programs will enable us to have our employees back on the job soon after an accident. But, more important than just carefully handling injuries, prevention of injuries in the first place must take first place in our minds and in our efforts. Promoting safety in the new year is the most important factor. Look for more info on this in the weeks ahead.

I like to think of what we are planning as a “common sense approach to handling injuries and injured employees.” If I could post one poster around campus for everyone to read it would be “Use Common Sense!” I think that this phrase captures the essence of safety and environmental compliance more than any other. Safety is *common sense*. Has always been. Will always be.

Heat related injuries will be one of our biggest challenges as this new year rolls out. Be careful in the sun, and the heat. Drink fluids to maintain hydration (water us the best hydrator, believe it or not), and take breaks as needed to keep down heat stress. Wear light colored clothing, one layer is preferable to multiple layers of clothing to increase the beneficial effects of evaporation of sweat and cooling of the body. Just pace yourself and pay attention to your body's feedback.

Let's keep it safe this summer!

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**Pepitone Family visit E.H.S.**

We occasionally have visitors to our offices that are special. The photo above is of Lisa Pepitone and her frisky twins, Gracie (being held by Lisa) and Annabelle, along with their lovely sitter, Hope. They were on campus for the Vet School's Pets and Vets kids' education event. Lisa manages the LSU hazardous waste facility on Gourrier and handles our hazardous waste collection activities.

Thanks to Lisa for bringing these wonderful members of our EHS family by to see us, and a very special thanks to her for her work in keeping our campus safe through her management of our hazardous wastes!

## Lab E.H.S.



LSU and the LSU AgCenter were recently issued a "Certificate of Registration" enabling us to continue our research with high consequence pathogens and toxins referred to as Select Agents. These agents are closely regulated under the Patriot Act and the Bioterrorism Act by the US Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and by the US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Our research is registered with CDC, which maintains oversight and conducts comprehensive inspections every three years, with periodic inspections as needed in the interim. Research with these agents require safety and security measures that go far beyond our normal day to day research requirements.

Shown with the certificate are (left to right) Dr. Thomas Klei, Interim Vice Chancellor, Research and Economic Development, LSU; Dr. Gregory Hayes, Manager, Biological Safety, and Dr. Philip Elzer, Assistant Vice Chancellor, LSU AgCenter.

**Slips and Trips – #1 Accident Type!!**

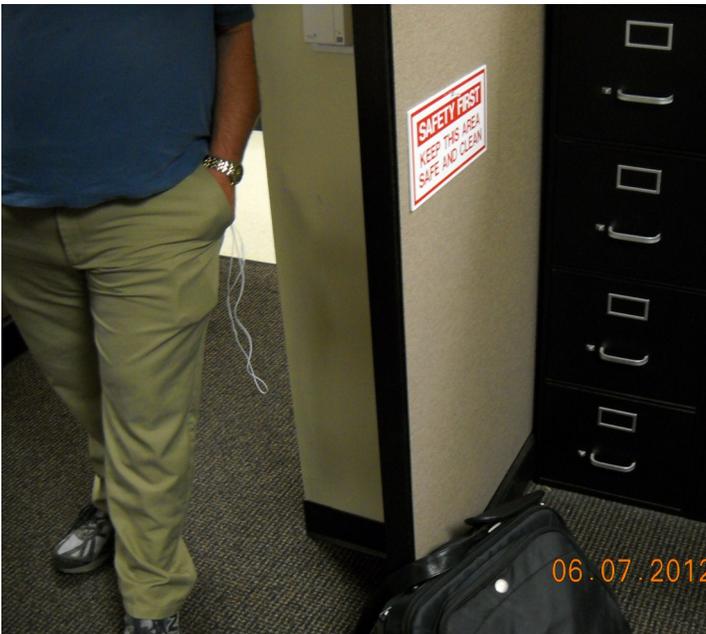


**SLIP Hazard-**

**Wet Floors– wipe up immediately!!**

**Hazard sources:**

- Wet umbrellas
- Drink spills
- Shoes tracking water from outside
- Water leaks
- Wet mopping



**TRIP Hazard-**

**Blocked walkway– keep walkways clear!!**

**Hazard sources:**

- Purses/briefcases adjacent to desks
- Boxes/trashcans stored next to walkway
- Cords run across walkways
- ‘Temporary’ storage

## Safe Driving

**What do you do at an intersection when the STOPLIGHT is flashing?**

**ANSWER:** if Flashing **RED..** STOP, Yield to TRAFFIC

If Flashing **YELLOW..** Proceed WITH CAUTION

The Flashing Yellow has the 'right of way' and is not required to stop. The Flashing Red 'MUST STOP', and yield to traffic, and proceed when clear. If a stoplight has NO POWER, the intersection MUST be treated as a 4-way-stop.

**If it is raining, and you have your windshield wipers on, what else is required?**

**ANSWER:** Your HEADLIGHTS

Having your headlights ON increases your visibility to others. In addition, it is required by state law! You should also *increase your following distance* from 2 seconds to 4 seconds when roads are wet!

**Is Safe Driver training required annually to drive on State Business?**

**ANSWER:** Driver Training is required every 3 years, and must be repeated when one receives a traffic citation. The Driver's Authorization form should be completed Annually.

**Do drivers of golf carts, and other utility vehicles being driven on roadways need to be "authorized?"**

**ANSWER:** Yes. Drivers using golf carts or utility vehicles must follow the same Driver Authorization process and Safe Driver training as drivers of automobiles.

## STORM SEASON Preparation

Recalling Baton Rouge's experience with the storms of 2005, and 2008, we need to pre-plan and get ready for the next storm season by remembering the lessons learned.

Communication plans should include:

- Establish a Contact person whom you will remain in communication with out of the potential storm affected area

- Maintain supervisor's, and co-workers telephone and contact numbers

Assemble clothing, medications, critical papers in one duffel bag. Give friends and family members your plans and telephone numbers. Take phone book of numbers and addresses with you, along with critical papers such as insurance policies, birth certificates, social security cards, and "last month's" utility bill receipts.

Make sure your vehicle is ready for a trip, check fluids, tire pressure, proper operation of lights, windshield wipers. Copy paperwork for each vehicle to include insurance, ownership title, and registration in each vehicle

Loss of Electricity:

- Telephones should be wired to telephone system, remote phones will not work, get telephone extension cords to run outside for telephone

- Cell phone charger for use in vehicle

- Stock up on ice

- Use separate "day-use" ice chest to store food for the day rather than continuously opening/closing freezer and refrigerator

- Freeze plastic milk jugs with water prior to storm, can be used as source of water and also keep in ice chest to keep cool

- Medications needing refrigeration?

- Frozen meats serve as good "ice cubes" in "Day-chest" then cook that night

- Fill propane bottles for grills, and camp stoves, for cooking

- Have cash available

- Obtain battery powered radios, lanterns, and flashlights. Remember the spare batteries

- Know proper use of electrical generator, follow manufacturers instructions

- Generators can "back-feed" into the electrical grid causing a serious danger for electric company employees. Separate generator electrical feed from your house electrical system.

Contra-flow of evacuees through town:

- "Car-pool"-car-pool with co-workers or neighbors, minimize traffic and save \*\*gas\*\*,

- Avoid major roads and interstates, consider providing spare maps of town to evacuees

- Use only approved containers for gas/fuel storage. Store away from ignition sources

- Fill vehicle tanks prior to the storm or early in the morning

- Stock up beverages, snacks, be a good neighbor and provide to evacuees

- Avoid traveling by car if possible

BEWARE of Carbon Monoxide:

- Carbon monoxide is a silent killer, no smell, no taste, one cannot detect

- CO is generated when something burns. i.e.: Generators' exhaust,

- vehicle exhaust, propane and natural gas stoves

- Keep area ventilated when using these devices.

- Do NOT place electrical generator next to open windows

## Excavations

***“For the purpose of this procedure, excavation is defined as any work that disturbs the original ground surface at the point of work. This includes items such as installing or removing sign posts, removing concrete walks, and tent stake installation.”***

On Campus, there are numerous underground utilities that can be damaged due to simply “driving in a tent stake.”

Utilities include data transmission lines, high and low pressure natural gas supply lines, water supply lines and electrical lines.

**Excavation is defined as “disturbing the original ground surface at the point of work.” Whether it is with a shovel, back-hoe, boring, drilling, or simply driving a sign support post into the ground. Utilities shall be identified PRIOR TO any excavation, so they can be avoided.**

The Excavation Permit accomplishes this task. Prior to performing ANY excavation, apply for and receive an Excavation Permit from Facility Services Department. (Extension 8-3186).

If you have contracted with a contractor to do any excavation work on campus, make sure this procedure is followed by the contractor and their sub-contractors.



### ++++ Safety Meetings +++++

*As a minimum, Department Safety meetings should be conducted Quarterly. This newsletter can be used as safety meeting material. Please route through your department via e-mail and request a “return receipt,” or circulate with “sign-in” sheet containing printed name/date/ and initial.*

### Office of Environmental Health and Safety (E.H.S.)

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### Year-To Date Accidents

During the first 5 months of 2012, there have been 97 accidents reported to Risk Management. There were 100 accidents reported during this same period in 2011.