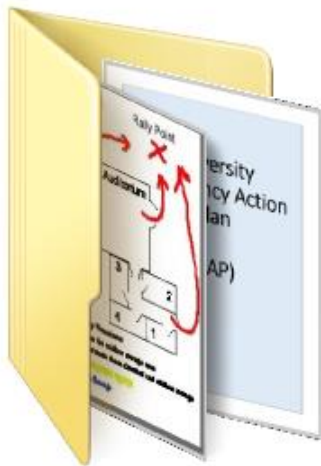


UMS Safety Support Updates, News and Other Topics of Interest July 2016

Topics in this newsletter

- This Month's Topic Reminder – Emergency Action Plan
- Safety Challenge Question of the Month
- Lawnmower Safety (for Work and Home)
- Spot the Safety Violation

This Month's Topic Reminder – Emergency Action Plan



Do your departments have an Emergency Action Plan? Does it include all the OSHA elements? Have you tested the plan to ensure that employees are correctly following it? Is it effective? If you stated “no” or “I’m not sure” then it’s important to look into it and make any corrections.

Purpose: The purpose of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) helps to establish what your employees will do in the event of a workplace emergency. A non-existent or a poorly prepared plan, likely will lead to a disorganized evacuation or emergency response, employees will be confused, and may result in injuries.

Required OSHA elements of an EAP: At a minimum, OSHA requires the following items be addressed in your EAP [29 CFR 1910.38(c)]:

- Means of reporting fires and other emergencies
- Evacuation procedures and emergency escape route assignments
- Procedures for employees who remain to operate critical plant operations before they evacuate
- Accounting for all employees after an emergency evacuation has been completed
- Rescue and medical duties for employees performing them
- Names or job titles of persons who can be contacted
- Although they are not specifically required by OSHA, you may find it helpful to include a description of what type of alarm system is used.

You’ll want to review the elements of the EAP with your employees and discuss the emergencies that may occur in the workplace. If you have any fire hazards such as flammable materials or special hazards such as toxic or radiation, then you’ll want to discuss that too.

If you have any questions, or would like assistance with your Emergency Action Plans, please don’t hesitate to contact the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management department at 581-4055 or email us at sem@maine.edu



Safety Challenge Question of the Month

(Photo on right) This compressed gas cylinder was positioned up against the cabinet. What is wrong with this storage method?

Answer:

It is not properly secured. Also, the valve protection cap should be installed on the cylinder.

Cylinders should be secured with straps or chains connected to a wall bracket or other fixed surface by restraining straps or chains, or by use of a cylinder stand.

If a compressed gas cylinder (either empty or full) is knocked over, and the valve or regulator snaps off, gas can flow rapidly from the cylinder. This cylinder now becomes an uncontrolled rocket that can cause severe injury and damage as it releases its potential energy.



More information:

- For a YouTube video where the MythBusters crew prove that an air cylinder will shoot through a concrete wall when the regulator stem is sheared off. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJGnLT084>
- Free posters from the Compressed Gas Association are available at: <https://www.cganet.com/customer/publication.aspx?mode=sp>
- A self-inspection checklist developed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-101/chklists/r1n29c~1.htm>

Lawnmower Safety (for Work and Home)

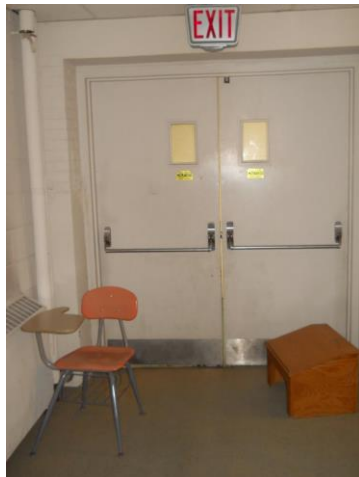
Now that we have our lawnmowers out, this might be a good time to review some lawnmower safety tips with our families and employees that have mowing and lawn care duties.

A particular article (and safety investigation) of interest is one about a lawn care worker who was struck in the head by a metal projectile when the coworker's lawn mower ran over yard debris. The lawn care worker later died as a result of the blunt force trauma to the head. That investigation report can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/pdfs/full201304.pdf>

Also, this extensive (44 pages) brochure (link below) has safety tips, along with real accident reports, to give you a better understanding of the risks associated with this type of work. This booklet may be helpful to use in conjunction with your hands-on safety training and the equipment operator's manual.

- https://www.osha.gov/dte/grant_materials/fy09/sh-19503-09/mowing-trimming_safety_manual.pdf

Spot the Safety Violation(s)



UMS campus work-area image(s)

NOTE: When we observe these hazards, we immediately notify the area supervisor or the campus Facilities Management.