

# UMS Safety Support Updates, News and Other Topics of Interest

## August 2016

### Topics in this newsletter

- This Month's Topic Reminder – Training Records Review
- Safety Challenge Question of the Month
- Spot the Safety Violation

### This Month's Topic Reminder – Training Records Review

With the myriad of safety standards that are used to help keep your employees safe, how do supervisors ensure that their employees have received their training? One way is to review your employee's training records for any documentation showing that they have completed the training. If they don't have a hard-copy of the training certificate, perhaps the documentation may electronically from an on-line course. It's especially important that you can produce documentation that the employee completed the training, because you may need to produce your records if the Department of Labor requests them.

But how do you know *what* training they are required complete? First you should consult your campus safety personnel or policies for guidance. Or for a complete listing of training requirements, the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management's Safety Training web page at <http://sem.umaine.edu/safety-training/> has guidance that may help.

Another good tool to assist you with conducting a safety self-audit of your training program and records is a checklist that may be downloaded from: <https://sem.umaine.edu/files/2011/09/Safety-Training-Checklist.pdf>

Keeping good training records will help you to evaluate your employee's training needs and ensure that they are getting the required training.



Also, the Maine Department of Labor SafetyWorks offers many free resources such as training classes, training videos and publications, tips, links, etc., to help you with your training programs. Visit the SafetyWorks of Maine webpage, at <http://www.safetyworksmaine.com/training/index.html> to see any upcoming training courses.

We'd like to remind you about the Board of Trustees' mandate for the Annual Basic Safety Training and Annual Departmental Safety for all employees, including faculty, staff, graduate students, post docs, and student employees (including work-study students, teaching assistants, resident directors) and any other person who receives pay or compensation for work performed. In addition, students and volunteers are to be provided with appropriate safety information as necessary to safely perform specific, assigned tasks. More information about how to enroll, login, and how to complete this training, please go to the SEM webpage at: <http://sem.umaine.edu/safety-training/>

If you have any questions, or would like assistance with your safety training programs, please don't hesitate to contact the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management department at 581-4055 or email us at [sem@maine.edu](mailto:sem@maine.edu)



## Safety Challenge Question of the Month

The minimum vertical clearance between sprinklers and any material below (whether it's the building structure or other materials such as cabinets, supplies, storage, etc.) shall be (*how many*) inches?

Answer: 18 inches. OSHA 29CFR 1910.159(c)(10)

The 18-inch vertical clearance requirement is treated as a horizontal plane throughout the storage area or room. All materials must be stored below this horizontal plane. The clear space between stored materials and the sprinkler deflectors allows discharge from sprinklers to overlap and pre-wet combustibles to effectively contain a fire.

What are the requirements for storage items that are horizontal (to the side of) sprinkler systems?

The general rule precludes any storage horizontally from a sprinkler head. However, materials stored on shelves against a wall are not subject to this requirement because they do not impede the overlap of spray from multiple sprinkler heads. Also, in the specific circumstances of library stacks (high-density book storage areas) and in medical records storage, section 8.15.9 of NFPA 13 (2007 edition), allows shelves to extend to the ceiling as long as every aisle is provided with sprinklers spaced no more than 12 feet apart along the aisle.

Excerpt from the Letter of Interpretation:

[https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27313](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27313)

## 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.*