

UMS Safety Support Updates, News and Other Topics of Interest

March 2017

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This Month's Topic Reminder – E-Waste

What is 'e-waste'? E-waste (electronic waste) is a type of universal waste – a sub-category of hazardous wastes of common items that most all university employees have in their work area. It's important to understand what items are classified as e-wastes so that they aren't improperly disposed of in the trash.

E-waste refers to electronics such as computer keyboards, mice, cables, flat screen televisions, printers, ink cartridges, laptops, game systems, digital picture frames, cell phones, microwaves, uncontaminated laboratory electronics, audio/stereo equipment, etc.

If these e-wastes are improperly disposed of with your regular waste and ends up in the landfill, the toxic chemicals in these electronic products can leach into the ground over time or are released into the atmosphere, impacting nearby communities and the environment.

If you're not sure if the item you're throwing away at work is e-waste (or universal waste), please contact your campus Facilities Management or campus Recycling department.

And to help you properly recycle/dispose of your e-waste at home, here are a couple of handy websites:

- Donate your used electronics: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling>
- Maine DEP Electronics Recycling information <http://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/ewaste/index.html>

Toolbox Talks



What are 'Toolbox Talks'? Well, they're not meetings to discuss your toolbox, but rather it's a quick (about 10 minutes) informal gathering that gives you an opportunity to discuss various safety and health topics to your workers. It a good way to get participation while encouraging questions and discussions. The Department of Labor's SafetyWorks of Maine has a list of topics to get you started. http://www.safetyworksmaine.gov/safe_workplace/safety_tips.shtml

Also, the SafetyWorks of Maine has a wealth of information to help you with your training and other safety resources. Their website is <http://www.safetyworksmaine.gov/index.shtml>.

Another good idea is that you may also use the newsletter topics for your toolbox talks. On the last page of this newsletter, you'll see a roster for your employees to sign after you present your talk.

As always, if you have any questions regarding your campus safety programs, or if we can assist you, please don't hesitate to contact the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management at 581-4055 or email us at sem@maine.edu



Daylight Saving Time – Change your Batteries

On the second Sunday in March (specifically, March 12, 2017) we will set our clocks ahead one hour (at 2:00 a.m. local standard time) – except in Hawaii and most of Arizona.

While you're changing the clocks, this will be a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Also test them (by pressing the test button) at least monthly to ensure that they are in working order.

To provide you with some handy tips, we've included two brochures from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) attached to this newsletter. Please share and post.

- ✓ Smoke alarms at home
- ✓ Carbon Monoxide Safety

What Were They Thinking?

Not a UMS campus work-area image(s)



Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



SAFETY TIPS

- KKK** Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- KKK** Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- KKK** It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- KKK** Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- KKK** There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- KKK** A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- KKK** People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- KKK** Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

FACTS

- !** A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- !** Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- !** Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

