



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY Environmental Health and Safety GUARDIAN

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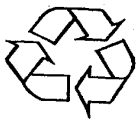
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Taking a Road Trip?

If your department or organization is planning to make a trip using 15-passenger vans, you may find the following information very useful.

Due to an increased risk of rollover under certain conditions, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued a warning to anyone who uses 15-passenger vans. The vans are prone to rollover since the center of gravity tends to shift upwards and to the rear as they are loaded. The rollover tendency is most pronounced during quick maneuvers when the driver reacts to emergency conditions.

For the safety of your passengers, NHTSA and EH&S recommend the following practices and tips:

Allow only trained and certified drivers to operate the vehicles.

- Minimum age of driver should be 21.
- Driver should have a minimum of two years driving experience.
- A violation check should reveal no more than one moving violation within the last 12 months.
- No violations or traffic stops related to alcohol.
- Successful completion of a Defensive Driver training program within the past two years.
- A road test with a designated driver coordinator/trainer within the last 12 months.



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Building Code Administration Update

In response to extensive damage that resulted from a series of natural disasters experienced throughout the state in the 1990's, the 2000 Florida Legislature created a new "unified" building code entitled the Florida Building Code. In response to the development of this code, the University has created the Building Code Administration (BCA) Section within EH&S. The charge of the BCA Section will be to ensure compliance with the state adopted Building Code for all construction activities undertaken at FSU. The BCA Section will affect the review of construction documents for code compliance, issue a permit for construction, inspect construction activities, and issue certificates of Occupancy or Completion.

The University community is advised that, effective October 1, 2001, the BCA Section shall be notified prior to initiating any construction activities. Questions regarding this program should be directed to Tom Deckert at 644-7686.

OSHA Coverage for State Employees?

On June 19, 2001, Rep. Robert Andrews of New Jersey introduced a bill to the Federal House of Representatives that would extend coverage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act to state and local workers. The OSHA Act of 1970 originally applied to private industries and limited federal employees, leaving other government employees unaffected by the Labor Department.

Many states enacted laws to create a division that would ensure the safety of their employees; however, with the recent abolishment of Florida's Division of Labor and Employment Security, employees of the State of Florida have been without a regulatory agency to ensure their safety.

After the abolishment of FDLES, Governor Bush signed an Executive Order that stated those Divisions under his direct control would be required to abide by OSHA regulations. If this bill passes, employees of the State of Florida would have more definitive protection.

Fire Safety Notes

- All drivers on campus are reminded that red curb areas are for Fire Department use only. No other vehicles, private, State, or contractor may ever park or unload in a fire lane. Enforcement for these areas is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Any vehicle that parks illegally in one of these areas is subject to a \$100 fine payable by the driver.
- The Fire Safety Section would like to extend a pat on the back to the folks over in Biology Unit 1 with special kudos going to the fellas in the shop areas. They have embarked on a project to rid their workplace of clutter, fire hazards, and to arrange the equipment to make for a quicker exit in case of an emergency. Their efforts have yielded great results. Good work and thanks.



EHS Training Corner

Look to this area for information on training EHS offers. This quarter, we would like to highlight the following training:

Fire Safety

All employees of the University shall receive this training.

Topics covered include:

- Fire extinguisher use and awareness
- Building safety equipment
- Safety surveys
- Building evacuation

Hazardous Waste Awareness

This training is required on an annual basis for anyone who generates or has the potential to generate hazardous waste. Hazardous Waste Awareness Training is mandated under EPA regulation 40 CFR 265.

Topics covered include:

- Hazardous Waste Determination and Definitions
- Hazardous Waste Generator Status
- Accumulation Limits
- Container Management
- Spill Control
- Hazardous Waste Pick-ups

Foreign Travel Advisories

The Controller's Office has included a link on their web page for foreign travel advisories. You can access information and policies on University travel on the Controller's web site at: www.vpfa.fsu.edu/control/travel.html. Before leaving the country, be sure to check out: http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html

Mosquito Protection



Lately we've been hearing a lot about Eastern Equine Encephalitis and the West Nile Virus. Both of these viruses are carried by mosquitoes and with the recent rains that have been hitting Tallahassee, mosquito populations are likely to increase. County and State health departments are urging residents to take proper precautions against mosquito bites. The Florida Department of Health recommends the following:

- Try to avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are likely to be active.
- If you must be outdoors when mosquitoes are active, cover up by wearing closed shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeved shirts.
- Use mosquito repellent, ones with DEET are very effective.
- Eliminate stagnant water in birdbaths and any other receptacles in which mosquitoes might breed.

For more information related to mosquitoes, visit the Leon County Mosquito Control at www.co.leon.fl.us/mosquito.

(Continued from "Taking a Road Trip?" on page 1)

- Possess a valid driver's license appropriate for the vehicle being driven.
- An inexperienced driver should be given practice operating the van under the supervision of a trained driver prior to being allowed use of the van.

Drivers should be responsible for inspecting the vehicle prior to leaving the parking site.

- Any defects should be noted and corrected prior to departure.
- All equipment and luggage carried should be secured in a safe manner.
- Weather conditions should be evaluated and travel should be curtailed when conditions are hazardous. (This includes but not limited to fog, heavy rain, snow, ice, high winds, etc.)
- Trailers should be prohibited.
- Roof mounted loads should be prohibited.

There should be a suitable number of drivers for the trip, based on the distance being driven.

- There should be one driver for every 400 miles being driven.
- No more than eight hours of continuous driving should be allowed.
- A driver must rest at least a half-hour for every two consecutive hours of driving.
- No driver should drive more than four hours a day.
- Drivers should not drive between 9:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. without special permission.
- Drivers should not use a cell-phone while driving.

Passengers should adhere to the following rules:

- All passengers should wear seat belts at all times while traveling.
- Passengers should use only seats equipped with seat belts.
- No alcohol or drugs should be consumed or allowed in vehicles.
- Vehicles should not be overloaded and tires should be properly inflated based on the load carried.

Other safety considerations.

- Vehicle headlights should be on when driving.
- Drivers should not drive a vehicle that is not operating properly.
- Drivers must obey all traffic regulations, including posted speed limits.
- Vehicles should be limited to no more than 10 passengers (despite being 15-passenger vans, the maximum number of passengers should be 10).
- A cell phone, charged battery and a battery charger should be provided for each vehicle/trip.
- Students should not operate 15-passenger vans or trucks.

IN THE NEWS....

William Johnston Building Mercury Spill

The cleanup and decontamination of the William Johnston Building has been completed. After several days of cleanup efforts, 44 drums of mercury contaminated debris were accumulated and will be disposed of properly. Numerous personnel were screened for mercury exposure and monitoring of the building itself after the cleanup showed mercury levels to be at zero.

EH&S would like to extend our gratitude to those departments that were involved with the recent mercury spill. The cleanup effort could not have progressed as smoothly as it did had it not been for the entire University community.

Look to the next issue of the Guardian for a more extensive article on the events that occurred during the spill and its subsequent cleanup.

HISTORY REVISITED....

Source: <http://www.gsu.edu/other/timeline/>

- 1783 Joseph Montgolfier and Étienne Montgolfier launch the first hot air balloons
- 1815 Humphry Davy invents the miner's safety lamp
- 1881 Louis Pasteur develops an anthrax vaccine
- 1925 John Baird transmits the first television signal
- 1943 Jacques-Yves Cousteau makes the first dive with a compressed-air aqualung
- 1981 First flight of the space shuttle



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