



Guardian

Environmental Health & Safety

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(850) 644-6895
Fax (850) 644-8842

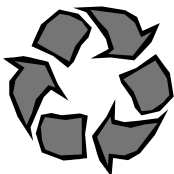
Director
Fran Harley
fharley@admin.fsu.edu

Editor
David Plichta
dplichta@admin.fsu.edu

Contributors:
Paul Burress
Tom Deckert
Tom Jacobson
Mark Klawinski
Paul Shuler

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As FSU and Tallahassee increase in population and size, the impacts on the surrounding environment have also increased. One of the most important and neglected impacts is storm water runoff. As most of us know, Tallahassee has occasion to flood during periods of heavy rain. In addition to the rain that falls on campus, a lot of water passes through campus from the north and west portions of town. All of this water works to carry any contaminants or debris that is either in or near the storm water sewer inlets. To address these and other concerns recent federal legislation has been enacted that requires issuance of permits to groups other than municipalities, which includes FSU. To meet these requirements a permit application was recently submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) addressing what FSU will do to mitigate impacts on storm water.

The cornerstone of the permit process is to identify steps that will be taken over the permit lifetime to increase the protection of the environment. FSU is taking an active stance in addressing the storm water issues on campus through a variety of mechanisms some of which are listed below:

- mapping of all storm water systems that are on campus property
- increasing knowledge of possible impacts of storm water contamination
- identifying activities that may contribute to storm water contamination
- policy and procedure revisions to address possible storm water issues

In future activities FSU will be looking at providing information through training programs, increased runoff controls and other activities to help ensure the health of our environment by stopping possible pollution through the storm water systems. FSU will be following guidance from both DEP and the Environmental Protection Agency to identify possible controls and sources of information to achieve the desired results.

Watch the Guardian for future articles that will be published to provide information on what you can do to help protect the environment. As always if you have any questions or ideas please give us a call at 644-8800.



Web Site

In response to concerns expressed regarding the navigation of the EH&S web site, a reconstruction is underway. The new version of the site incorporates “roll-over” effects that highlight navigational aids and allow viewing of each page with minimal amount of scrolling. Future developments will include additional FAQ’s and a more streamlined process for application and registration of research proposals.

If you have comments, complaints, or recommendations for the new site, please forward them to David Plichta (dplichta@admin.fsu.edu).

**July is
National
Firework
Safety
Month
Be Careful**



More on Mobile Phones and Driving

Motorists are more accident-prone and slower to react when they talk on cellular telephones even hands-free models because “inattention blindness” makes the drivers less able to process visual information, University of Utah researchers found.



“Even when participants [drivers] are directing their gaze at objects in the driving environment, they may fail to ‘see’ them because attention is directed elsewhere,” says the new study by psychologists David Strayer, Frank Drews, and William A. Johnston. “Phone conversations impair driving performance by withdrawing attention from the visual scene, yielding a form of attention blindness.”

The study concludes that inattention blindness explains the researchers’ widely publicized 2001 findings that users of hands-free and hand-held cell phones are equally impaired, missing more traffic signals and reacting more slowly than motorists who do not use cell phones.

The new study was published in the March 2003 issue of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*.

Radiation Safety Inspection

Unknown to most of the university community, The Florida Department of Health - Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) visits our campus every two years and performs thorough inspections of the University's use of radioactive materials, particle accelerators, and x-ray devices. The latest inspection was completed in May 2003, by a team of inspectors from the Jacksonville and Tallahassee offices. The BRC team found that we were in compliance with all regulations regarding the use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing machines. This is the best result that can be attained during this type of inspection and it does not come easy. The credit for this accomplishment should mainly be given to our researchers (present and past) for their dedication to University policies and safety, and to our Radiation Control and Policy Committee (RCPC) for providing programmatic guidance and oversight to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO).

The inspectors verbalized that they were pleased with the level of radiation protection and control that they found within our research areas during this and prior inspections and stated that we should strive to maintain our current level of commitment in spite of anticipated personnel changes within the RCPC and the Radiation Safety Office. Four of the six members of the RCPC will be retiring within the next few months while another resigned due to promotion.

Hurricane Season

June 1st marked the beginning of the 2003 hurricane season and if predictions hold true, this season will be more active than average. Preparing yourself at work and home are important steps you need to take well before a storm approaches.

If your department has areas that are prone to flooding during periods of heavy rain, ensure that all equipment, especially items that don't react well to water like computers, electronic equipment, etc., are moved to a safer location. To aid in insurance claim processing, be sure to have an accurate inventory of property. Photographs both before and after of your equipment and facilities can further aid the claim process.



At home, have a hurricane plan. A plan includes home preparation, evacuation route, where you will go, and what supplies you will take. If you plan to stay and “ride-out” the storm, make sure you have enough supplies to last and follow these guidelines:

- Fuel your car, even if you don't plan to evacuate, gas stations may be inoperable if electricity outages are widespread.
- Bring in or secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, etc.
- Turn refrigerators and freezers up to the highest settings to maximize food preservation.
- Turn off small appliances that aren't needed.
- Turn off LP gas tanks.
- Fill tubs and sinks with water to use for toilet flushing, cleaning, etc.

Even after the storm has passed, danger still remains. Here are a few reminders of what to be aware of after the storm has passed.

- Remain informed with local radio or TV stations.
- Do not use candles or other open-flame devices for lighting, instead, use flashlights or battery-operated lanterns.
- Be alert for downed electrical lines and gas leaks.
- Do not use tap water for drinking or food preparation unless you know it is not contaminated.

With careful preparation before and caution after a storm the 2003 hurricane season won't blow you away.

Survival Kit

- Non-perishable food –2 week supply per person
- Water-1 gallon per person per day (2 week supply)
- Prescription medications
- Insect repellent
- Flashlight and batteries
- Portable radio
- Non-electric can opener
- Infant and elderly supplies
- Clean-up supplies
- First aid kit
- Cash

First Aid Kit

- Bandages
- Antiseptic
- Compresses
- Tape
- Gauze
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Hydrocortisone
- Calamine lotion
- Gloves
- First aid manual

Camp Insurance

For all departments who hold camps, seminars, or workshops, accident insurance is available. This insurance covers both student and non-student participants as a supplement if they have existing coverage or as primary insurance if they are uninsured. Premiums are dependant on the activities planned during the event and are very reasonable.

Once the event is planned, the coordinator of the event can fill out a form (EHS 2-7) to request coverage. The form is available on our web site at www.safety.fsu.edu/forms.html or by calling our office at 644-6895.

A new policy and procedure has been created to address this insurance. It is available on our website at www.safety.fsu.edu/campmanual.html.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this policy, please feel free to contact our office at 644-6895.

Building Code Administration

Since the inception of the University's Building Code Administration Program (BCA) in January 2001, the office has developed into a positive University resource. The office has successfully partnered with the Facilities Operations and Maintenance, Facilities Planning and Construction and many other University departments to assist in the assurance of a safe-built environment for the FSU community.

During the past two years, the office has participated in over 300 University projects ranging from minor repair and renovation to the complex new buildings being constructed on FSU properties. Through cooperative efforts, the BCA program is becoming familiar to individuals and departments on the main campus as well as remote facilities in Panama City and Sarasota.

To learn more about the program, staff, permitting procedures, or frequently asked questions, visit the BCA web page at www.safety.fsu.edu/building.html.

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Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4109

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