

# Summer 2014 Newsletter

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## EHS MISSION

**“We are committed to protecting people and environment by conserving our natural resources and maintaining a healthful and safe environment for present and future generations. “**



## *The HEAT IS ON.*

Rising temperatures and humidity are playing together this summer. The combination of high temperatures, humidity, direct sun exposure, and heavy physical labor, increases the risk for heat illnesses. The most common heat illness is heat stress, which can result in heat stroke, heat exhaustions, heat cramps or heat rashes. Don't SWEAT—learn the warning signs and symptoms of heat illnesses and **TAKE ACTION.**

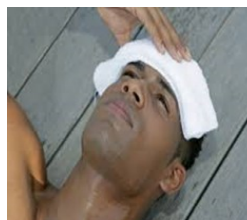


### Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion

- ◇ Extreme sweating, clammy, moist skin
- ◇ Weakness or fatigue
- ◇ Dizziness, confusion
- ◇ Thirst, nausea or vomiting

### Symptoms of Heat Stroke

- ◇ Hallucinations
- ◇ Throbbing headache
- ◇ Confusion, dizziness, slurred speech



## TAKE ACTION

### What to Do When a Worker is Ill from the Heat

- ◇ Call 911.
- ◇ Stay with the worker until help arrives.
- ◇ Move the worker to a cooler/shaded area.
- ◇ Remove outer clothing
- ◇ Fan and mist the worker with water.



### Prevent Heat Illnesses

- ◇ Wear protective clothing that provides cooling.
- ◇ Drink 1 cup of water every 15–20 minutes.
- ◇ Take breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.
- ◇ Schedule hot jobs for the cooler part of the day
- ◇ Use relief workers or assign extra workers
- ◇ Monitor your physical condition and that of your coworkers.



# Fire Safety

## Grass Fire—A Summer Hazard

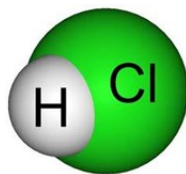
Warmer temperatures increase the potential for grass fires to occur in open fields, wooded areas and pathways covered with dead and dry vegetation. The campus at the College of William and Mary is surrounded by mother nature's finest products; trees, grass, shrubs, plants and flowers. To maintain the elegance that nature provides, prevent grass fires this summer, by following these fire safety tips:



- ⇒ **D**on't throw cigarette or cigar butts on the ground or out of a vehicle. Follow the College's *Smoking Policy*; use designated smoking receptacles to properly dispose of all lighted tobacco residue.
- ⇒ **D**on't park vehicles on dry grass or shrubs. Exhaust systems on vehicles can reach a temperature of more than 1000 degrees; it only takes about 500 degrees to start a brush fire in the summer.
- ⇒ **M**aintain equipment in good working order.
- ⇒ **M**aintain a 10-foot area that is free of brush and shrubbery around BBQ grills and propane tanks. Do not leave a grill unattended, and when finished, place ashes in a bucket and soak in water until completely cooled.



# Hydrochloric Acid Spill Incident



On May 29, 2014, a Research Specialist was working in a lab at the ISC, when a hydrochloric acid spill occurred; spilling approximately 100 mL 12M HCL. The Research Specialist noticed the spilled acid was off gassing, and immediately went to get assistance from the Laboratory and Research Specialist (LRS).

The LRS reacted promptly; following proper procedures in response to the spill including **1)** securing the spill with Spill X-A **2)** evacuating others in the lab to minimize personnel exposure to the fumes released by the acid **3)** warning others in the adjacent laboratory **4)** getting additional assistance.

The constituents of the acid spill were cleaned up and disposed of by EHS. There were no reported injuries and according to feedback from laboratory workers, the acid did not come in contact with personnel skin or clothing.

## Lessons Learned

**#1.** Lab-specific spill response procedures should be developed and communicated to all lab personnel.

**# 2.** Laboratory safety policies, specifically, required levels of personal protective equipment should be communicated.

**#3.** Laboratory workers and students should have training on the location of spill kits, the contents inside and proper use of the spill kit.



**#4.** Laboratory workers should store strong corrosive acids in tightly closed containers.

## Chemical Inventory

It is time for the annual chemical inventories to be updated for all of the laboratories on campus. All Principal Investigators (PIs) should complete a chemical inventory and email it to the EHS Specialist at [cbharr@wm.edu](mailto:cbharr@wm.edu).

**Deadline: July 1, 2014**

The chemical inventory shall include:

- Chemical Name
- CAS #
- State of the Chemical: Solid, liquid, Gas
- Type of container: Glass, Plastic, Metal
- Manufacturer's Name

★ As part of the inventory process, a chemical round-up will be conducted. Any unused or unwanted chemicals should be disposed of by filling out a hazardous waste disposal form and contacting the EH&S department for a pickup. The disposal form can be found at:

[http://www.wm.edu/offices/facilities/documents/safety/hw\\_disposal\\_form.pdf](http://www.wm.edu/offices/facilities/documents/safety/hw_disposal_form.pdf)

# TRAINING

**Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S)** offers a wide range of classroom and web-based training programs designed to educate College faculty, staff, and students, as well as reinforcing safe and compliant work practices in our research and building operations. Most of these EH&S training programs are required by state and/or federal laws and regulations. Departments are responsible for identifying personnel who require training and ensuring completion. Our staff is available to assist with the development and presentation of training as well as all inquiries, assessments and reporting. The EH&S annex offers space for online training, classroom training, and the ability to view training DVDs from our inventory. Contact the EH&S office to assist you with your training needs.

### Some of the Training offered includes:

- \*Bloodborne Pathogens
- \*General Lab Safety
- \*Confined Space
- \*Lockout/Tagout
- \*Ladder Safety
- \*Lifting Safety
- \*CPR/AED
- \*First Aid
- \*Asbestos
- \*Respirator
- \*Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC)



## Contact Information

Director, EH&S	(757) 221-2146
Safety Engineer	(757) 221-2288
EH&S Specialist	(757) 221-6450
Fire Safety Officer	(757) 221-1745
EH&S Fax	(757) 221-2215
EH&S Email	slprio@wm.edu
Fire Safety Email	btmeirs@wm.edu



If you have an emergency, always

**CALL  
9-1-1**