



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lab Safety Summit

EHS is looking at dates late in February or early March 2020 for our next Safety Summit. The theme will be Emergency Preparedness and Response and is based on your responses to our recent topic survey. Safety Summit format will be slightly different than last year as we incorporate your suggestions from the exit survey. Look for postings when the final date is set.

## Lab Coat Program Launched!

The UO lab coat program is LIVE! If you need to order coats for your lab, contact [ehsinfo@uoregon.edu](mailto:ehsinfo@uoregon.edu). Coats are provided and washed free of charge. Please don't mark them up or leave behind any personal items. Drop them off at Onyx 72 when they're dirty and pick up a new one.



## this issue

Ergonomics **P.1**

EHSA Software Updates **P.2**

Reminder: Recycling Cardboard **P.2**

## Ergonomics in Office and Laboratory Settings

Offices and labs have unique ergonomic challenges; we often work in static and sometimes awkward positions for extended periods of time. Our ergonomic coordinator, Michelle Gillette, has performed assessments and provided training for employees in many different positions at the university, including labs and offices.

Take a moment to think about how you work. Are you reaching away from your body to use your keyboard or looking up at your monitor? Do you work at a lab bench or a microscope and find you are hunched over? These positions can be uncomfortable and over time may even be painful. Sometimes an adjustment of your chair/stool or the height of your monitor or microscope can help. See the information below to request an assessment from our experts.

One option now available for office assessments is Ergopoint. EHS has partnered with SAIF, the UO's workers' compensation insurer, and Humantech to use this program. Ergopoint is a web-based office ergonomic training and self-assessment tool.

To use Ergopoint, enter your information under *Request an Assessment* on our Ergonomics web page. We will email you information to log into and use your Ergopoint account. While you are on the Ergonomics web page, be sure to take a look at the *Information and Resources*. You will find some helpful links for general, laboratory, and office ergonomics.

Did you know that EHS has an ergonomic lending library with items available for trial use for up to 30 days? You can borrow chairs, height-adjustable desktop workstations, keyboards, ergonomic pointing devices (mice) and more. To find out what's available go the Ergonomics webpage. This is also where you request item(s) to try out (click on *Request a Lending Library Item*).



## EHSA updates

Our EHS Assistant software has a new look and several new features. In addition to submitting waste pickup requests, users can now create their own accounts, see their training records, request waste supplies be delivered, and more—all by logging in with your Shibboleth credentials.

Additionally, PIs and lab managers can view EHS inspection results, respond to inspection findings, and check their lab members' training records.

Chemical inventories are uploaded into EHSA by EHS staff using an Excel spreadsheet template. Once uploaded, lab members can then add or delete chemicals from their inventory.

Take a moment to log in: <https://ehsassist.uoregon.edu/EHSA> and poke around. If you need help using certain features, Laurie, Matt, and Hallie are happy to \*assist\* you!

## FYI: Volatile odor noticed during City sanitary sewer sampling 10-22

The City of Eugene sampled at the LISB [manhole](#) and noticed a distinct volatile organic odor around 10:45am on Oct 22nd. The sample appeared clear and had a neutral pH. The EHS Chemical Safety Officer conducted a comprehensive review of research lab spaces for any unusual discharges, which may have taken place throughout LISB. EHS findings were inconclusive on the source of odor and follow up communication with the City sampling team was completed.

Just a reminder: lab wastes are collected by EHS. Please be mindful of what substances are discharged down the lab sinks. Refer to the [Lab Safety Manual](#) for reference. Besides being bad practice, infractions can result in fines and unwanted public relations. We are in this together! Please do your part by having EHS pick up lab wastes. Questions? Go to our website at: [safety.uoregon.edu](http://safety.uoregon.edu).



## Reminder: Recycling corrugated cardboard boxes is the responsibility of individual labs.

Cardboard boxes are to be flattened completely and placed in green recycling carts located at loading docks by Streisinger, Onyx, and the east side of Pacific. Avoid accumulating cardboard in the labs spaces or hallways as this is a fire safety issue. Also, do not place cardboard in the hallways near campus recycling cans in hopes that it will just disappear. Cardboard does not go away by itself, it needs your help.



## Happy retirement, Sylvia Banks!

EHS would like to recognize Sylvia Banks, the facility manager for Terrestrial Animal Care Services, as she retires at the end of this year.

During her ten years at UO, Sylvia has fostered an environment of collaboration between the TeACS and research staff, which has led to open communication and improved animal welfare. She has empowered the animal husbandry group to develop their professional skillsets, which in turn enhances the services they provide.

She has been instrumental in commissioning the LISB animal facility, developing operating procedures, and maintaining critical equipment. She brings kindness, compassion, and humor to her work with both people and animals. Sylvia leaves big shoes to fill and will be sorely missed.

*Best wishes to you on your next adventure, Sylvia!*