

“If you have no heart in the game, then why play the game at all?”

Receiving HAZMAT on Campus

Receiving packages of hazardous materials from University personnel or from outside couriers happens every day. In order to comply with U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations, each person who receives, signs for, opens and/or unpacks hazardous materials packages at the University must complete the appropriate general awareness training offered by Environmental Health & Safety (EHS). Simply put, if the box has DOT labels showing hazard classes, such as flammable liquids or corrosives, then the package is a hazardous materials package. Therefore, EHS provides on line training for individuals who need it. Since it is on line, it can be accessed and taken at your convenience. Once completed, a short exam will be submitted to EHS, who in turn will issue you a certificate documenting the training. Many AU employees have already completed the training and are authorized to receive hazardous materials packages. The link to training is www.auburn.edu/rms/pdf/course-reg_hazmat.pdf

Why is this training required? EHS has a responsibility to ensure the safe handling and use of hazardous materials. In receiving hazardous materials, employees must be trained on how to recognize potential and real hazards. Spills happen all the time and employees should be prepared to respond to them properly. Moreover, hazardous materials need to be handled safely, securely and legally. Violations contrary to existing DOT regulations can result in civil penalties of up to \$32,500 per violation or criminal prosecution of up to \$500,000 and 5 years in prison.

Who should complete the training? Hazardous materials transportation coordinators designated by AU Departments and Divisions; loading dock and receiving area personnel; and employees who receive, sign for, opens and/or unpacks hazardous materials. Note that even upon completion of the EHS training, you are not authorized to load or operate a vehicle transporting haz mat in commerce, i.e., when money changes hands in any way.

How long is this training good for? Successful completion of the training is good for 3 years under DOT regulations. Your certificate will list the date on which the certification will expire. It is the responsibility of the individual obtaining the certification to register for refresher training at that time.

What about shipping hazardous materials to others? The haz mat receiver training will not certify you for shipping haz mat. Therefore, if you need to “prepare or offer haz mat for transport”, in other words ship hazardous materials from the University (including shipments containing Dry Ice), you should contact EHS personnel to assist you. They have received the additional training necessary to ship haz mat. However, those wishing to ship haz mat must supply the correct packaging needed to do so. Contact EHS for information on obtaining the appropriate packaging for shipping haz mat. If you choose to obtain haz mat shipping training, EHS will assist you in finding a reputable training company that specializes in this instruction.

EH&S to work with “Green Projects”

Auburn University Environmental Health and Safety has teamed up with the Office of Sustainability in promoting a green and healthy environment. EH&S will provide information on current programs offered to the campus on a daily basis, such as the recycling of fluorescent bulbs, batteries, waste oil, E-waste, and pure chemicals. EH&S will also participate in the “Go Green” event in the Spring of 2010.

Services Provided by EH&S

Environmental Health and Safety Program:

Mission: To responsibly foster an atmosphere in which human health and the environment of the University is safeguarded through education, regulatory compliance and natural resource preservation and management.

EHS is committed to deliver outreach, education, evaluation and quality services in the areas of:

- Hazardous waste management
- Pathological waste management
- Medical waste management
- Universal waste (fluorescent bulbs, batteries, mercury containing equipment and pesticides) management
- Used oil management
- Storm water management
- Dangerous Goods Shipment

Stormwater Management

Auburn University operates its own stormwater system under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Program. AU’s stormwater system is comprised of many catch basins and inlets, miles of piping, dozens of structural best management practices (BMPs) and outfalls that convey stormwater runoff.

What is stormwater runoff? Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain and even the occasional snow melt flows over ground. Impervious surfaces like parking lots, sidewalks and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is a stormwater runoff a problem? Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants and flow into AU’s storm sewer system or go directly to the creek without any means of treatment.

What are the possible effects of this pollution? Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people such as:

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic life to grow.
- Excess nutrients from failing sanitary sewer systems to fertilizer can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water necessary

to sustain life for aquatic organisms. Elevated levels of nutrients from sanitary systems can also create a public health hazard.

- Debris in the form of plastic bags cans, and bottles will not only make the creek ugly but will also will suffocate aquatic life like plants, birds, turtles and fish that make the creek their home.

Report Water Pollution

You can help AU identify sources of water pollution that affect our campus streams. As you walk to class or work, notice the storm drain inlets and streams that are scattered throughout campus. If you see soap suds or unusually colored water or smell sewage or other chemical odors in these inlets or in campus streams please call 844-4870. You can also send an email notification to mccautp@auburn.edu.

Keep Auburn Beautiful!

Environmental Programs to Co-Host Campus Cleanup in February 2010

Auburn University Environmental Health and Safety will co-host a campus cleanup on February 20th, 2010 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Alabama Water Watch and Auburn University Recycling will partner with AU EH&S to help clean up the campus from Camp Auburn Rd. to Parkerson Mill Creek. Teams of four-six will have zones of responsibility given to them as a way to organize the cleanup effort. Trash will be segregated from plastic bottles and aluminum cans during the cleanup effort. Student organizations and community groups will provide personnel to help us retake the valuable areas on Camp Auburn Rd. and Parkerson Mill Creek. Camp Auburn Road and Parkerson Mill Creek continue to be problem areas for trash and illegal dumping. Camp Auburn Rd. is used for recreational walking and running, along with training for the AU Cross Country Team. Our goal is to gain control of littering that plague these areas of campus.

If you would like to help out, please contact Michael Freeman at freemms@auburn.edu or call 334-740-1267.

EH&S In-Service Training Helps to Cut Costs



The current financial situation has put Auburn in a proactive mode to help curb costs. So far we have escaped layoffs and furloughs through sound practices over the last few years. Our neighbors to the northwest have not been so fortunate. The University of Alabama laid off over 1,000 employees this year due to the cuts in funding from Montgomery (among other financial issues). So far, Auburn has been on the outside looking in. In order to keep that a reality, the university has requested the various departments on campus to look inward for savings. EH&S has done just that.

What is IST?

In-Service training has been a staple for many businesses and organizations over the last decade. It enables employers the ability to train in house on areas of need without paying for services provided by outside groups. For example, EH&S employees must show proof of training on Personal Protective Equipment to remain certified in DOT HAZMAT Operations. In-Service training is provided twice in an 18 month cycle on PPE to keep employees trained on this component of their certification. The In-Service training provides the necessary hours for recertification in DOT HAZMAT Operations, RCCRA, HAZWOPER, HAZMAT Technician, CHMN, and CHMP.

How is it delivered?

The IST program here at EH&S is delivered by personnel who are trained at or above the level of certification needed for the particular topic on the agenda. Many times we are able to find individuals from outside the program to provide us with instruction on particular topics such as CPR or RCCRA.

How much is saved by utilizing IST?

Estimates vary by topic, but our numbers indicate a savings of nearly \$1,200.00 dollars per person per year. Many of the classes you take from outside groups can cost from \$500.00-\$800.00 per person when you add in travel and hotel expenses. Outside perspectives are important to the development of the employee, but tough times call for improved tactics and cost cutting measures. We feel we are doing both with our own IST program.



CAMPUS RECYCLING

*Sustainability...
your university, your world*