



Safety Briefs

SAFETY NEWS FOR UC SAN DIEGO EMPLOYEES

SPRING 2007

Fire at Basic Science Building

An early morning fire on April 11th in an unoccupied 4th floor Basic Science Building laboratory caused fire, smoke, and extensive water damage. The fire alarm sounded when heat activated sprinkler heads. An employee in a nearby office saw the fire as he was leaving the building and called 911. The building was evacuated and no one was injured.



Hazardous materials responders clean up chemicals after the BSB lab fire.

The fire started when an electrical component on a water bath malfunctioned and overheated, quickly spreading to an adjacent flammable solvents bottle. Flames rapidly traveled up the wood shelves above, consuming combustibles. Three fire sprinkler heads were activated by the blaze, creating significant flooding on the 4th floor, and the floors below, all the way down to the basement.

Lessons learned

Take every building alarm seriously. BSB has a history of false alarms. Consequently, some
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Campuswide Emergencies Online Guide

emergency.ucsd.edu



Find complete campuswide emergency information quickly online at emergency.ucsd.edu. Learn how to get prepared, take training, and find support.

Be a CERTified Emergency Responder

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cert>



CERT members practicing first aid.

Join UCSD's Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT), and be prepared to help yourself and others in a crisis. CERT equips members with emergency response skills through an association with local city-sponsored

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Win an Ergo Office Chair



Complete Web-based ergonomics training, and you could win a free Steelcase chair for your workplace*.



How it works: Log in to Enrollment Central (<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>) and complete the "Evaluating Your Computer Workstation for Comfort and Productivity" Web-based training program. A winner will be randomly drawn each month from a list of employees who have successfully completed the training during that month. **Winners receive an ergonomically designed Steelcase chair** from Marketplace (<http://marketplace.ucsd.edu/ergonomic.asp>).

* Chairs awarded through this program are the property of the winner's UCSD department.

Questions? Contact an EH&S ergonomics specialist at ehsih@ucsd.edu or (858) 822-0294.

April's Ergo Office Chair Winner is: Denise Lewis, Marine Physical Laboratory

Congratulations, Denise! Learning how to use the adjustable features of an ergonomically designed chair to improve seated posture and comfort at a workstation is just one of the things Denise learned by taking "Evaluating Your Computer Workstation for Comfort and Productivity" through Enrollment Central. Develop *your* ergonomic awareness by learning more on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergo>.

Please Post or Circulate

CERT ... continued

Community Emergency Response Team training programs. During a crisis, trained CERT members can provide immediate assistance to victims, organize volunteers at a disaster site, and give critical support to first responders.



CERT volunteers during fire extinguisher training.

CERT members also participate in non-emergency projects that improve the safety of the campus community, including role-playing in emergency preparedness exercises and becoming familiar with campus emergency resources.

Find out how to get CERT training and volunteer for the campus emergency response team, on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cert>. Membership is open to students, faculty, and staff.



Safety Training on Enrollment Central

<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

Browse “EH&S—Safety” under Course Topics for classes and schedules. Learn more about UCSD safety training resources at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/safetytraining>.

NEW! Dealing with Emergencies at UCSD

“Dealing with Emergencies at UCSD” is a new training program offered through Enrollment Central to help all UCSD employees and departments plan realistic strategies for preparing, responding, and recovering from emergencies affecting campus. Attendees will learn about the UCSD Emergency Preparedness Program and how they fit into it. Topics include:

- Causes and effect of emergencies
- Departmental Emergency Plans
- Employee roles as they relate to emergencies
- Programs in place to deal with emergencies
- Prepare, Respond, Recover, Mitigate
- Practice and drills
- UCSD’s emergency resources

Fire at BSB ... continued

occupants chose to ignore the alarm and not evacuate the building. Since protecting human life is always the first priority, emergency responders had to clear the building of people before turning their attention to fighting the fire. Had the fire and smoke spread beyond the lab, or toxic fumes been released, anyone remaining in the building would have been in jeopardy.

Keep fire sprinkler heads unobstructed. Maintain a minimum 18 inches of clearance between a sprinkler head and anything below it. When one sprinkler probably would have extinguished this lab fire, obstructions ultimately contributed to three sprinklers being activated, leading to increased water damage.

Keep lightweight plastic drop cloths handy to protect equipment from overhead flooding. Plas-

tic sheeting was part of Geisel Library’s emergency supplies in 1995 when a 16” high-pressure water main on Library Walk ruptured, sending flood waters into the 1st and 2nd floors of the main library. Library employees had plastic sheeting in place to protect collections and equipment **before** the water soaked through the 2nd floor and began dripping onto the 1st floor below.



Equipment protected from overhead flooding with plastic sheeting.

Campus Casualties Incident Reports

- An animal technician was accidentally stuck in the finger by a syringe needle.
- Another animal technician’s back, buttock, and leg were strained when the employee was lifting water bottles onto an autoclave cart.
- A researcher was splattered by chemical and broken glass when a sealed bottle being heated became pressurized and exploded.
- A Housing employee’s lower back was scraped and bruised when the employee stepped off the bottom step of a ladder onto a pillar, and fell back onto a post.
- Another employee stepped off the second rung of a ladder, thinking it was the first rung, and sprained an ankle.