

SafetyBriefs

SAFETY NEWS FOR UC SAN DIEGO EMPLOYEES



SUMMER 2007

September is Campus Preparedness Month

During this time of national reflection on the tragic events of September 11, 2001, take time out of your busy schedule to prepare yourself, your staff, and your family for emergency events. Here's what you can do:

- **Review** the campus Emergency Management Plan, your Department Emergency Action Plan, and your Personal Supplies Checklist for emergency events. Find details on each of these topics at: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/emergencyprep>.
- **Register** your phone to receive text and voice emergency notifications. Go to <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/emergencyphonereg> to enroll.
- **Join** the Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT) and become a trained participant in UCSD emergency preparedness efforts. Learn more about CERT at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cert>.

Questions? Contact EH&S Emergency Services at (858) 534-1064 or ehsemerg@ucsd.edu.



Emergency & Safety Expo 2007

Thursday, September 13th
10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Price Center Ballroom B

Attend Emergency & Safety Expo 2007 to build your awareness of emergency preparedness and safety resources at UCSD. Emergency response professionals will enliven exhibits with hands-on equipment training and preparedness seminars, including the American Red Cross, San Diego Project Heart Beat, County of San Diego Office of Emergency Services, Campus Emergency Response Team (CERT), UCSD Environment, Health & Safety, and UCSD Police Services.

Join us for free refreshments and raffle prizes – you could win an iPod, a 3-day supply emergency kit, or other great safety giveaways! Check Blink for more information at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/emergencyexpo>.

Congratulations to UCSD's Workers' Compensation Program!



Susan Johnston

UC San Diego's Workers' Compensation Program won the Best Improvement in Program/Performance Award for Workers' Compensation at the 2007 UC Risk Summit. The award recognizes outstanding efforts to prevent disability, reduce absenteeism, and increase productivity. In further tribute to a success worth sharing, UCSD's Workers' Compensation Program will be the keynote presentation at the 2007 Pacific Southwest Safety & Health Conference.

Office of the President–Risk Services recently interviewed UCSD Workers' Compensation manager, Susan Johnston, to discuss the reasons for the program's excellent success and rapid improvement from a \$2 million deficit in 2005 to a **\$6 million surplus** in 2006. Continued on back...see Workers' Compensation

Campus-wide Emergency Exercise in October

UCSD will conduct an emergency response exercise on Tuesday, October 16th. UCSD's professional-level emergency responders will interact with San Diego Police and Fire in an active-shooter scenario.

In advance of the exercise, review UCSD Emergency Guide information on **how to respond to acts of violence:** <http://www.ehs.ucsd.edu/emerg/response/violence.html>.



Using Helium to Fill Balloons?

Follow Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety Guidelines

Helium in compressed gas cylinders used occasionally in office settings to inflate balloons for parties or other social events presents 2 types of hazards: the chemical hazard associated with the cylinder contents and the physical hazard of the cylinder being under pressure.

Careless handling of cylinders or improper use of helium could cause an accident with serious results. Mishandled cylinders may rupture violently, suddenly releasing their contents and becoming dangerous projectiles.

Follow these basic guidelines for working safely with compressed gas cylinders, including helium used for balloons:

Continued on back...see Helium Balloons

<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

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

Please post or circulate



Helium Balloons

...continued

During balloon-filling operations:

- Fill balloons in well-ventilated areas to prevent the risk of asphyxiation.
- Check all connections for leaks prior to use.
- Close the cylinder at the valve after each use.
- Never leave the cylinder unattended when it's operational.
- Never allow anyone to breathe helium from the cylinder. Although helium is not poisonous, it can lead to asphyxiation.
- Never allow children or unauthorized people to handle balloon-filling equipment.

Transporting the cylinder:

- Do not roll, drag, or slide cylinders.
- Do not lift cylinders by cylinder caps.
- Remove the inflator and place the protective cap on before transporting the cylinder.
- Use a cylinder cart to transport cylinders, even for short distances. Secure the cylinder to the cart so it can't tip, fall over, or bang into another cylinder.



Balloon valve/inflator

Storing the cylinder:

- Remove the inflator and place the protective cap on the cylinder when storing.
- Store the cylinder upright and secure it to a substantial, fixed surface with upper and lower restraints.
- Make sure cylinders are not placed where they might form part of an electric circuit.

Read Compressed Gas Guidelines

on Blink for detailed information about working safely with compressed gases: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cg>.

July's Ergo Chair Winner is Adrienne Andrecht, Pediatrics Department!



Congratulations to Adrienne!

You could win a free Steelcase chair from EH&S for your workplace. Log in to Enrollment Central at <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.

NEW! on Enrollment Central

- **Transitional Return to Work: Helping Mitigate Work-Related Injury Severity** – Find out what a TRTW assignment is, who qualifies, and the responsibilities and advantages for the department and employee.
- **Accident Investigations for Work Related Injuries and Near Misses** How to perform an accident investigation and complete an injury report, including documenting the facts, determining causes, legal obligations, and recognizing unsafe practices and conditions.

Workers' Compensation ...continued

Ms. Johnston highlighted two significant changes:

- In July, 2004, Vice Chancellor Steve Relyea chose to **consolidate all claims case management activity** into the Workers' Compensation Program, including transitional return to work services.
- UCSD fully embraced the new UC Chief Risk Officer's philosophy that **a strong focus on reducing risk and promoting safety** will reduce the frequency and severity of work-related injuries.

Because UCSD was the only UC campus with Workers' Compensation integrated into the Environment, Health & Safety department, it was easy to strengthen the involvement and leadership of Workers' Compensation in proactive EH&S loss prevention and loss control programs.

We're All Winners

Every department budget is directly affected by the success of UCSD's Workers' Compensation Program.

Each department pays a payroll rate for coverage and the new rate for FY 07/08 **dropped by 18%** to \$0.79/per \$100 of payroll – second highest decrease for any campus (UC Santa Cruz won the award for highest decrease at 18.4%).

Our Return To Work Program has effectively reduced absenteeism and increased productivity. UCSD had the **lowest lost days rate** per 100 FTE of all the campuses and medical centers for FY 05/06 with a cost savings of over \$250,000.

Aggressive integration of Workers' Compensation with EH&S loss prevention and loss control programs resulted in a **20% decrease** in reported injuries for FY 06/07, the largest decrease of all the campuses.

Proactive integration of EH&S injury prevention efforts with prevention and mitigation of work-related disabilities by Workers' Compensation created a best practices model that reduces the frequency and severity of work-related injuries. We all win!

