Inattention Blindness

Distractions now join alcohol and speeding as leading factors in fatal and serious injury crashes – NSC

Despite state laws that prohibit talking on a hand-held cell phone or texting while operating a motor vehicle, a lot of people regularly text or talk while driving.

The National Safety Council (NSC) says drivers using hands-free or hand-held cell phones experience a form of cognitive distraction called inattention blindness, meaning they “look at” but do not “see” up to 50 percent of the information in their driving environment. These drivers miss visual cues critical to safety and navigation, tend to miss exits, and go through red lights and stop signs.

Distracted driving, According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), applies to anything that takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the steering wheel, or interrupts your concentration while driving.

Read more about distracted driving:
- NSC - http://www.nsc.org/

Travel Safety, Insurance, & Security

U.S. State Department travel warnings have been issued for the northern states of Mexico and other select countries.

If you’re planning international travel, visit the U.S. State Department website at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_pa_tw_1168.html for current conditions and advisories.

Protection Benefits for UC Faculty, Staff, and Students

UC Office of the President - Risk Services has recruited the services of iJET, an organization that can provide worldwide assistance to UC travelers for emergency situations. iJET provides real time intelligence and travel alerts designed to keep our travelers well informed throughout their trip.

Registered UC travelers will receive direct e-mail notices from iJET/Worldcue regarding political unrest, natural disasters, war activities, health warnings, etc. iJET also provides services for medical emergencies or evacuation, emergency travel arrangements, safe housing, security, and finally rescue and extraction should a situation become critical.

continued on back ... see Travel Safety

Safety Award For Excellence Winner!

Mike Griffith
Facilities Management Assistant Director

As chair of FM’s Safety Committee, Mr. Griffith took the initiative to improve the work safety protocol for FM’s confined space and lockout/tagout programs. By diligently implementing safety training and safe work practices, Mike was instrumental in reducing the frequency and severity of FM’s Workers’ Compensation claims for 2009. The number of claims was reduced by 29% resulting in a savings of $185,000.

The Safety Award For Excellence (SAFE) celebrates UCSD individuals and work groups who excel in creating and maintaining a safe and healthful workplace consistent with Environment, Health & Safety policies.

Tell us who’s making UCSD a SAFE place to work. Use the online SAFE nomination form at http://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/EHS/safe.htm.

UCSD Barbecue Policy

UC San Diego’s Barbecue Use and Storage Requirements allow only barbecues fueled with LPG (liquefied petroleum gas, or propane) to be used on campus. Charcoal barbecues are prohibited in all UCSD facilities.

Learn more about UCSD’s barbecue use and storage requirements on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/fire/requirements/bbq.html.

Questions? Contact EH&S General Safety division: gensafety@ucsd.edu
UCSD’s Food Safety Program

UC San Diego’s food facility inspection program protects the public from food borne illness. Requirements apply to sale or distribution of food to the public by restaurants, cafeterias, mobile food facilities, catering services, and special events temporary food vendors.

Restaurants and cafeterias

Environment, Health & Safety (EH&S) inspects permanent food service facilities approximately 4 times per year. This schedule meets or exceeds requirements of the California Health and Safety Code.

Food service employees are trained by Housing–Dining–Hospitality and must pass an exam demonstrating their knowledge of food handling sanitation before being permitted to work.

Temporary food facilities

Student groups and departments operating temporary food facilities for special events must have a permit and follow requirements to ensure food safety.

See [http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/occupational/food/temporary.html](http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/occupational/food/temporary.html) on Blink to learn how to apply for a temporary permit.

Internal office potlucks and invitation only events are excluded from these requirements.

Sewer System Management Plan

UC San Diego has developed and is implementing the Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) to properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system under campus control. The SSMP will help reduce and prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), as well as mitigate any SSOs that do occur.

Report sewer overflows

Help UCSD protect the environment and public health by reporting all sewage overflows or spills immediately to Environment, Health & Safety, (858) 534-3660.

Travel Safety, Insurance & Security

Coverage extends to spouses, domestic partners, and dependents traveling with UC faculty, staff, or students on official business.

Registration is automatic when booking travel through UC Travel (Connexxus). However, if booking travel through Southwest (SWABIZ) or other outside agencies, you must self-register at [http://www.uctrips-insurance.org](http://www.uctrips-insurance.org).

Your travel insurance registration is automatically transmitted to iJET, generating a “Welcome Email” from the iJET/Worldcue system.

This Welcome email includes a link for you to update and complete your online travel profile, including emergency contact information.

Completing your travel profile is crucial for assuring assistance with your safety throughout your trip.

The iJET/Worldcue system stores your information in a secure database for prompt retrieval in the event of an emergency.

Familiarize yourself with UC travel insurance program benefits at [http://www.uctrips-insurance.org](http://www.uctrips-insurance.org). UC travel insurance benefits are available at no cost to UC faculty and staff who travel out of state or country on official UC business, and to students in UC-sponsored and supervised off-campus activities and programs abroad.

Questions? Contact UCSD Risk Management Office: (858) 534-3820, ehsrisk@ucsd.edu.

Report on Work-Related Injuries

Over the past quarter, 232 incidents were reported to the Workers’ Compensation Office, ranging from minor (no medical treatment required) to serious. The anticipated cost of these 232 incidents is $420,000. The top 4 incident categories were: Strain/Sprain (58); Contusion/Bruise (54); Laceration (42) and Repetitive Stress Injury (21).

Top reported causes for Strain/Sprains were:

Bending – “Bent over to untangle cords”; “bending over to unplug machinery; “bent over to retrieve charts from bottom of a stack.”

Lifting – “Lifting boxes of drinks”; “lifting trays into oven for department luncheon”; “lifted box that was heavier than anticipated.”

Reaching – “Reaching to pick up laptop”; “placing a book on shelf above head”; “retrieving full case of water from shelf above head.”