Copiers in Fire Exit Corridors to be Relocated

State fire and life safety regulations prohibit copiers from being located in fire exit corridors because they contain both combustible materials (plastics, paper, toner cartridges), potential sources of ignition (electric motors, lamps, hot surfaces), and may block egress in emergencies, such as an earthquake.

Imprints and the UCSD fire marshal are collaborating on a program to move copiers currently in corridors to acceptable locations, and ensure new copiers are installed in approved locations. Please give Imprints technicians your full cooperation if the relocation program effects your copier. Identifying building space will be challenging, especially when a copier is shared by several departments.

Fire exit corridors are your pathways to safety. Cluttering corridors with stuff that doesn’t belong in them – hazardous materials, workstations, combustible trash, recycling containers, surplus equipment ... and copying machines – impedes evacuation during an emergency when seconds count.

Protect Your Equipment from Flood Damage

Five floods have occurred at UCSD over the last two months. Floods aren’t always noticed immediately, allowing standing water to accumulate, or water to seep (or pour) down from floors above.

Computers sitting on the floor beside or under desks are particularly vulnerable to flood damage. Help prevent water damage, data loss, and downtime from repairs or replacement by elevating computers and other equipment a few inches off the floor with commercially available racks – or make your own.

continued on back ... see Flood Damage Control

Safety Award For Excellence goes to Grace Sousa
Bier Lab, Biological Sciences

Addressing the safety needs of a busy laboratory is no easy endeavor. Grace Sousa of Biological Sciences’ Bier Lab took on the responsibility in spite of being new to the job. Grace never hesitates to take advantage of EH&S services when she has lab safety questions or concerns. Her enthusiastic efforts have transformed the Bier lab into a model of safety and compliance, and an example for others to follow. Thank you, Grace, for your ongoing commitment to supporting the safety needs of your laboratory and the UCSD community.

Nominate someone! Visit the SAFE Hall of Fame at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/safe, and use the online nomination form to tell us who’s making UCSD a SAFE place to work.

Minors Not Allowed in 12- or 15-Passenger Vans

As of April 16, 2004, University of California Office of the President has directed that minors are no longer allowed to be riders in 12- or 15-passenger vans used for UC activities. The new rule is in response to recent legislation concerned with the increased rollover risk with these vehicles. Smaller vans are a good alternative.

If you have questions, contact Diana Olson in Risk Management at diolson@ucsd.edu, or (858) 534-3820.
“Safety Training Days” on Enrollment Central

Register for EH&S Safety training online via Enrollment Central at:
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.

Aerosol Cans Can Explode in Hot Cars

Do you keep WD-40, hair spray, Off, Fix-A-Flat, or other aerosol (pressurized) containers in your vehicle? If so, you might want to reconsider where you store these containers. The pressurized deodorant spray can pictured below was left inside a closed vehicle parked in an open lot on a hot, sunny day. It exploded, imbedding itself in the back seat of the car. The temperature outside the car was about 100 degrees F.

Fortunately, no one was inside or near the car when it happened.

Lessons learned: Don’t leave pressurized containers (of any kind) in your vehicle where they can be exposed to sunlight! Always read and follow the manufacturer’s safety recommendations that come with the can.

Flood Damage Control ... continued

Report floods immediately to Physical Plant Services at (858) 534-2930. Professional water-damage remediation specialists will be dispatched to clean up flood water and repair other damages.

Apply for insurance reimbursement if property owned by your department is damaged or destroyed in a flood by notifying Risk Management at (858) 534-3820.

An investigation will determine if damages are covered by the University’s insurance programs. Covered losses are reimbursed minus a $5,000 deductible (prorated if more than one department is involved). Final funding for losses usually takes a few months, depending on the scope of the incident.

Read “How to File a Fire or Flood Claim“ in Blink for details.

Lifting Tips for a Healthy Back

Use these lifting and carrying techniques to protect your back from injury.

Tighten your stomach muscles and tuck your pelvis. Tightening the stomach muscles automatically helps support the lower back.

Always bend your knees when lifting anything. This helps maintain your center of balance, and lets the strong muscles in your legs do the work of lifting while protecting your back.

Keep your back upright as you lift. Gradually straighten your legs to a standing position to lift the load.

Campus Casualties

- A light cover in an elevator fell on an employee, cutting his head, leg, and knee.
- Bruising and a strained wrist resulted when an employee tripped over a computer mouse cord and fell.
- An employee was burned when he accidentally knelt on the ground where molten metal had formed below a chain that was being cut.
- Two heavy doors closed on a ship employee’s hand, fracturing her finger.
- Continuous diving in cold water caused a bone spur to develop in an employee’s ear.
- Something sharp in a garbage bag cut the leg of an employee who was removing trash from a metal shop.
- An employee placed his hand in the water of a clogged sink and cut his fingers on broken glass that was causing the blockage.