Safety Award For Excellence
EH&S is pleased to announce the Summer 2002 SAFE winner for Outstanding Individual. Who could it be?

From the Mandeville Center:
Russell King!

EH&S Director Steve Benedict is on stage in the Mandeville Center to present Russell King with the Safety Award For Excellence.

Russell King, Director of Mandeville Center
Safety has become a top priority at Mandeville Center thanks to the efforts of Director Russell King. Russell has made an all out effort to correct unsafe conditions, fortify Mandeville’s safety program, and restructure the entire record keeping system for safety training. Thanks to Russell, the Mandeville Center is a safer environment for both the public and employees.

Visit the SAFE web page at http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/SAFE/SAFE.htm to see who’s making UCSD a safer place. Got the urge to nominate someone? Use the online form at http://www-ehs.ucsd.edu/SAFE/safe_nom.htm.

Using Your Personal Car for University Business
Risk Management receives frequent inquiries regarding accident claims for personal cars used for UC business. Please be advised the University will not automatically pay for damage to personal vehicles.

The personal liability policy for an employee’s car is the primary coverage, with the UC policy serving as excess coverage if needed. Collision coverage can only be reimbursed, at the department’s discretion, to a maximum of $500 for a deductible.

Need more information? See the Blink Travel Tab online at http://blink.ucsd.edu. Look under “Automobiles.”

Develop Your Ergonomic Awareness
http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergo
Understanding basic ergonomic principles is essential for your comfort, safety, and productivity no matter what kind of work you do.

Access UCSD’s ergonomics program via Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergo to learn about work practices, equipment, and training that can help alleviate discomfort and reduce your risk of injury. Read about risk factors associated with these work categories and what you can do about them:

- Child Care
- Computer and Office
- Food Service
- Healthcare
- Laboratory
- Material Handlers
- Shop, Maintenance, and Custodial

Forceful exertions, repetitive motions, and awkward postures are risk factors during food preparation.
Campus Casualties

- A healthcare employee was sprayed in the face with a patient’s blood.
- An aquarium employee fell off a ladder behind the shark tank suffering a strained back, broken ribs, and head lacerations that required stitches.
- Pressure buildup in a chemical container caused the material to splash into the faces of two researchers when the container was opened. One of the employees was also splashed on the arms.
- Two housing employees were injured when the cart they were driving ripped over going around a curve. The driver was thrown from the cart and knocked unconscious. Both employees were scratched, bruised, cut, and bumped on the head.

Road Rage on the Rise

Surprise! Rude drivers and road rage are a growing problem for commuters according to the American Automobile Association (http://www.aaafoundation.org/home/). A recent survey from AAA’s northern California chapter found the most common obnoxious driving behaviors are weaving in and out across lanes of traffic, tailgating, running red lights, and cutting off other drivers. AAA offers these tips to avoid becoming a victim of road rage:

- Never challenge an angry driver by sudden driving maneuvers such as speeding up, slowing down, or blocking traffic lanes.
- Avoid eye contact. It further aggravates an angry driver, turning an impersonal traffic encounter into a personal conflict.
- Ignore rude gestures and the temptation to return them.
- If you think an aggressive driver is harassing you or trying to start a fight, call 911. Do not pull off the road and attempt to settle things.
- Drive to a safe, well-lighted location where other people are around, such as a police or fire station, store, or hospital. Never drive home during a dangerous incident.
- Use your horn to attract attention by making as much noise as possible. It usually discourages aggressors.
- If the angry driver is involved in a crash, stop in a safe location, call 911, and wait for law enforcement to arrive.

Are you an aggressive driver? Take AAA’s online quiz (http://www.aaafoundation.org/quizzes/index.cfm?button=aggressive) to see how your behavior behind the wheel rates. An opinion is offered with helpful advice for managing frustration and anger.

Dorm Room Safety 101

An August 27, 2002 article in SafetyAlerts (http://www.safetyalerts.com/) reported the death of a 20-year student in a fraternity house fire at a Michigan university. Five other students escaped. The fire started on an unattended stove.

John Drengenberg, manager of Consumer Affairs at Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) reminds students: “Whether you live in a dormitory, sorority house, or even a small off-campus apartment, your living area is likely overfilled with books, paper, bedding, clothes, and other combustibles that make your room a bonfire waiting to happen. Even the smallest spark can be deadly. We urge students to start the year off by taking steps to decrease potential hazards and make sure a fire this tragic does not happen again.”

Safety professionals at UL offer the following tips for residential student safety, no matter where they live.

**Electrical safety:**
- Do not overload extension cords, power strips, or outlets.
- Get a power strip with an over-current protector.
- Be wary of electrical outlets that are too hot to touch. Report broken or malfunctioning outlets and switches to the Residential Life Office.
- Do not connect multiple extension cords together.
- Do not use cords under doors or carpets.
- Buy only UL-listed electrical products.
- Use light bulbs with correct wattage for lamps.

**Cooking:**
- Don’t leave a stove or oven unattended when cooking.
- Cook only where rules allow.
- Look for UL-listed appliances that feature automatic shut-off buttons.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Keep curtains, towels, and pot holders away from hot surfaces.
- Store solvents and flammable cleaners away from heat sources.
- Keep surfaces clean of grease.
- Never pour water on a grease fire.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher handy.

**Be prepared:**
- Never disable a smoke alarm by removing the battery.
- Know your building’s escape plan.
- Know two ways to exit the building from your room. Memorize the number of doors to the nearest exit.
- Never ignore a fire alarm.
- When a fire alarm sounds exit immediately. Close, but do not lock, doors behind you as you leave the building.
- If you discover the fire, pull the nearest fire alarm as you exit the building.

**Do you know how to use a fire extinguisher?** Read “How to Use a Fire Extinguisher” on Blink at http://blink.ucsd.edu/Blink/External/Topics/How_To/1,1260,4473,FF.html.