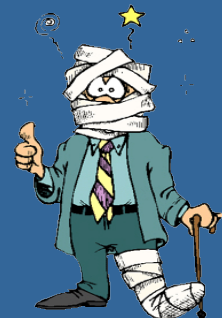




Safety Talks

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE 2006



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Extension Cords |

Food in Labs |

Spring Cleaning | 2

Did you know? | 2

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We're also on the web:

www.odu.edu/af/ehs

Extension Cord Use & Safety

If you are like most people, you often find yourself using an extension cord, either at home or at work. While extension cords look harmless, they can be dangerous. Never use an extension cord that does not have the Underwriter's Laboratories approval stamped on it. This shows that the cord meets acceptable safety standards.

Once you are sure you have an acceptable cord, be sure you use it properly. If you abuse the cord, it could break the insulation or the internal wires. This may cause a short circuit that can result in serious injury.

To prevent cord damage or personal injury:

- Coil the cord in large loops.
- Don't bend the cord unnecessarily, or subject it to strain.

- Don't run the cord under a rug. While this may prevent a tripping hazard, it makes it very easy to walk over. The broken insulation or wiring will not be seen readily, and the end result could be a fire.
- Use a properly grounded plug.
- Never connect two small extension cords. Use one long cord instead.



Also, make sure the cord you are using is large enough to carry the electrical load that you will be imposing on it. The label on the cord will tell you how much it

can handle. If the cord is hot to the touch, it is too small for what you are trying to do. If the cord should become damaged, resist the temptation to wrap it with tape and continue to use it. Damaged extension cords should either be discarded or repaired only by a qualified person.

If you find it necessary to use an extension cord in the same area frequently, a better option would be to have permanent wiring installed. While this may be expensive initially, it will give you peace of mind and makes good sense from a safety standpoint.

For more information about Underwriter's Laboratory visit the following link:



Eating & Drinking in Laboratories

Evidence that people have been eating and drinking in laboratories has been witnessed on many occasions during laboratory visits.

This practice poses many health risks, some of which can be serious to those individuals who perform such activities. Not only can you ingest the chemicals, bacteria, viruses and

fungi that you are working with, but it is also against university policy to eat and drink in laboratories.



So, if you are craving a snack or are thirsty, please consume and

dispose of your food and drink outside of your laboratories to avoid risking your health and to comply with university policy.

We care very much about our campus community and need your help in protecting it.

Safety Tip:

What can you do to prevent slips, trips, and falls?

- * If you see a mess or things lying around, take care of it. Don't wait for someone else to do it.
- * Keep walkways and stairs clear of scrap and debris.
- * Clean up spills of grease, oil or other liquids at once. If that's not possible, cover them with sand or other absorbent material until they can be cleaned up. Put a barrier or marker over the spill.
- * Coil up extension cords, lines, hoses, etc. when not in use.
- * Close file cabinets and desk drawers when not in use.
- * Make sure there's adequate lighting inside and outside.
- * Learn the proper way to set up and use ladders.
- * Report icy walkways and any other hazards that can't be corrected immediately. For example,

Safe Spring Cleaning



There are hints that spring is coming. Spring cleaning is spawned when increased light calls attention to dust that may have gone unnoticed during those dreary winter months. However, problems arise when we become careless in our cleaning efforts and fail to take the necessary precautions when using seemingly harmless household products.

Read the labels!

Some household cleaners contain quite strong chemicals. The Tilex label says, apply product and leave the room. There are signal words like "caution", "warning" and "danger" that should not be taken lightly. Most automatic dish washing powders have the words "caution" on the label. Not only are they eye and skin irritants, but if you place silver and stainless steel next to each other in the machine, the silver can be removed from your flatware.

Mixing cleaning products could land you in the hospital. It is tempting to mix cleaning products to work on those really tough stains, so mixing might be hard to resist, but the combination could be deadly. For example mixing bleach with ammonia produces toxic fumes.



Also, toilet bowl cleaner contains hydrochloric acid and mixed with chlorine containing products, like abrasive scrubs or bleach, can produce a chemical that will cause lung damage.

Do...

- * Read and follow label directions
- * Store cleaning products away from food and out of children's reach
- * Store products in their original containers, keeping product labels intact.
- * Never transfer to a container that may give the impression it could be consumed, for example, in soda bottle.
- * Properly close all containers to prevent accidental spills.

For more information look at:

American Association of Poison Control Centers
www.aapcc.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov

Soap and Detergent Association
www.sdahq.org

Household Products Database
www.householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov

Attention Laboratory Employees!

Are you producing Medical or BioHazardous Waste? Do you know what goes in the "Red Bags"?

If your not sure or you are producing the above listed waste, please contact the EH&S office and let us know.

We can try to answer any question you have and review the programs we have in place.



Did you know?

When Johann Vaaler patented his paper clip in 1901, there already were similar designs on the books. William Middlebrook of Waterbury, Connecticut patented his design in 1899. Cornelius Brosnan of Springfield, Massachusetts patented his Konaclip in 1900.

So, who was first? Well, it is thought to be Johann Vaaler. Drawings of his design date to early 1899, but since Norway had no patent law at the time, he had to seek patent rights in Germany and the US in the following years.



Johann Vaaler was born on 15 March 1866 in Aurskog, Norway. Known as an innovator in his youth, he graduated in electronics, science and mathematics. He was employed by the owner of a invention office when he invented the paperclip in 1899.

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