



### Static **FIRE!**

"STOP STATIC" are two magic words when it comes to avoiding a fire while pumping gasoline. Research indicates that static build-up occurs when a person pumping gas re-enters their vehicle and moves about the interior for whatever reason. When that person exits the vehicle and slides across the seat a static charge builds. As that person proceeds to touch the nozzle, the static is discharged, and a spark ignites fuel vapors around the nozzle. Experts believe that the increased use of synthetic materials in car seats in recent years has made this problem worse. Most incidents take place during the winter months, typically because static is most likely to occur when the air is cold and dry. If you must re-enter



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### Child Safety Laws & Helpful Resources

-Janice Plemons



There still seems to be a lot of confusion over the child safety law. I hope that the following information will be helpful to you or someone you know that travels with kids.

According to the California Highway Patrol (<http://www.chp.ca.gov>), the law states, "**Children must be secured in an appropriate child passenger restraint (safety seat or booster seat) until they are at least 6 years old or weigh at least 60 pounds.**"

Not sure which type of car seat your child should ride in? The Department of Transportation offers this helpful information. You can find it at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/childps/>

#### **Everyone Using a Child Safety Seat Should Remember Three Things:**

- Read the instructions for the child safety seat or booster seat.
- Read the vehicle owner's manual.
- Test for a snug, secure fit.

#### **Everyone Transporting Children Should Remember:**

- The rear seat is the safest place for children of all ages.
- Infants (less than one year of age) should never be placed in the front seat of a car or truck with passenger or side air bags.

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### Personal Protective Equipment

-Debbie High

In accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, certain Cal State San Marcos employees shall be provided personal protective equipment. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed for many work procedures on campus and for occupancy in hazardous areas. Some of the more commonly used PPE are respirators, ear plugs, ear muffs, leather gloves, nitrile gloves,



safety glasses and dust masks. The appropriate type of PPE for use at Cal State San Marcos will be supplied by the department and approved by each department supervisor. Risk Management & Safety will be

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### "Can you smell it...in the labs?"

-Regina Frasca



"Hello. Safety? Something smells really bad...". We receive many calls like this a month and thought you could assist Risk Management and Safety with some detective work. Does something smell and you can't determine the source? It couldn't be bad food since there is no eating in the labs. It couldn't be chemicals left open because all good scientists know they need to close containers once they are finished with them to prevent accidents and exposures. It definitely couldn't be the chemical plant down the street because they are not allowed to emit chemicals into the environment per Air Pollution Control regulations.

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## Plant Pest Can Make Outdoors Dangerous

Approximately 30 % of the population has never been exposed to or affected by poison ivy, oak or sumac. Unfortunately, there are 70% that have been affected and about 15% to 20% have had such a tremendous reaction to it that they required medical treatment.

Poison ivy, oak or sumac is one of the leading causes of occupational dermatitis, according to the National Safety Council (NSC). In California, about 1% of state worker's compensation budget accounts for the reaction. So how bad can the reaction get? A primary example, firefighters from California, Oregon, and Washington had to evacuate a sight while putting out a fire because of the risk of getting rashes from the poison ivy.

Urushiol is an oil in the plant that causes an allergic reaction to those that have made contact with it. Urushiol oil is released when the leaves are bruised due to the leaves tender nature. That is why Spring and early Summer are the most dangerous time of the year. However, one does not need to have direct contact with the plant in order to have an allergic reaction. Urushiol can be deposited from one place to another if it is transported by shoes, clothing, or animals. This type of plant remains active for up to 5 years after the plant dies because the roots and stems still contain the oil. Even when these plants have been burnt down, they release urushiol particles into the air which will cause serious inflammation or respiratory mucous membranes.

When one is exposed to urushiol for the first time, it may not always cause a rash. So one should not assume they are immune to it. However, the second time one is exposed to Urushiol, it is possible they will get a rash within a few days, and possibly heal in as little as ten days. For those that have sensitive skin, the rash could last up to three weeks. Once contact has been made, the urushiol oil penetrates the skin instantaneously. When this occurs, wash the affected area within a few minutes before the oil is completely absorbed into the skin. NSC recommends washing the area five to six times a day and apply rubbing alcohol to the affected area and rinse with water. If any clothing has been exposed in the process wash immediately and separate from other clothing.

### Poison Ivy:

Grows in two different forms. The vine is commonly found in the Eastern, Southern and Midwest states of the U.S. In the Northern part (Great Lakes and Canada) it grows as a shrub that can grow up to four feet. Its notched leaves alternate and are grouped in threes: the middle leaflet tends to have a longer stalk than the two lateral leaflets. The edges are smooth and toothed, and the leaves vary in length from less than half inch to over two inches. They are reddish in color during Spring, shiny green with a shade of yellow in the Summer, and red or orange during Fall.

### Poison Oak:

North America has two different types of poison oak. The Eastern oak is found from southern New Jersey to Florida and west as far as Texas and Oklahoma. Western oak is found west of the Rockies from the Peninsula of California to British Columbia. Like poison ivy, both species are recognizable by the leaflets which are grouped in threes that turn red in the Fall. In the East they are hairy and generally have three to seven distinct lobes. The



white, berry-like fruit is also hairy. In the West, it is a shrub or sometimes a climbing plant that grows up to eight feet tall. The leaves are not hairy but appear to be toothed or lobed.

A word of caution if you are a fan of the outdoors...be prepared because accidents do occur.

Continued Reading

[http://www.labsafety.com/store/dept.asp?dept\\_id=84](http://www.labsafety.com/store/dept.asp?dept_id=84)

## STATIC FIRE!

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your vehicle, be sure to touch metal located away from the fuel tank area to discharge any static prior to removing the nozzle from your vehicle.

This simple act can save your life and the lives of those with or around you! What should you do if a static spark ignites the fuel? **DO NOT REMOVE THE NOZZLE!** Get away from the area as fast as you can. The station attendant should activate the emergency shutoff device and notify emergency responders.

Source:

The National Safety Council's Family Safety & Health Magazine, Jan 03.  
(www.sanfrancisco.nsc.org)



## Industrial Safety Corner

Most people are relatively safe at their workplace. There are building codes, air standards, labor codes, safety regulations, procedures and equipment. Still, workers are dying by the hundreds and those of us in the safety field wonder "why?" Below are some statistics from the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2001.

- Decreases in fatalities from transportation incidents and job-related homicides were offset by increases in fatalities from falls and electrocutions.
- Fatalities resulting from falls increased to 808 in 2001, a 10 percent rise over 2000 levels.
- Worker deaths resulting from electrocutions, fires and explosions increased to levels of the late 1990's after falling to a near 10-year low in 2000.
- On average, about 16 workers were fatally injured each day during 2001.

Make it your goal to go home safely each day "with all your fingers and toes". Our employees are fairly safe but it only takes an instant for something to go wrong. You could be trying to save time, or you may be doing something "your" way instead of following procedures. Of course, it would not happen to you because you know what your doing...right? Here are a few people who thought they knew what they were doing. An electrician was removing metal fish tape from a hole at the base of a metal light pole. The fish tape became energized, electrocuting him. Another employee was operating an aerial lift, with an extendable boom rotating aerial work platform. He was thrown from the basket while moving the machine. The boom was fully extended and the machine apparently ran over some bricks, causing the boom to flex or spring, throwing the employee from the basket. The fall was about 37 feet to a concrete surface. The employee died from severe head and chest injuries.

Talk to your supervisor if you do not understand a procedure or feel the operation is unsafe. Call our office if you have questions. Remember, we are here to help you achieve your goal of doing your work safely and keeping..."all of your fingers and toes".

Source:

[http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/toc\\_FatalFacts.html](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/toc_FatalFacts.html)  
<http://stats.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/foi/cfnr0008.pdf>

## CAN YOU SMELL IT...

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The smell is reminiscent of rotten eggs, boiled cabbage, and sometimes dead animals. Sometimes the odor is fleeting and sometimes it lasts for a while. Ultimately, if it continues to last then some action to remediate the problem should be taken by the occupant, RM&S or Facility Services.

The odor smells very bad but the permissible exposure limit is higher than the occupant can usually tolerate. One frequent cause of this situation in laboratories is the unused cup sinks on the bench tops or in the fume hoods. In the general areas, odors can result from unused floor drains, floor sinks, or the emergency fire equipment. All drains have a "U" shaped trap called the P-trap along the drain line. If the drains are rarely used the traps may dry out and become a route for sewer odors to enter the area. Labs with fume hoods are even more susceptible to drying out. Fume hoods provide a force of negative pressure which can dry up the traps quicker and draw odors from drain lines.

Occurrences such as this can be easily prevented by periodically charging, or adding water, to the drains. Facility Services has an extensive preventative maintenance program for the campus. RM&S fills the floor drains in the laboratories every month when performing emergency equipment inspections.

Once in a while some traps dry up quicker than we can get to them and others may exist that we don't know about. A great deal of plumbing is well taken care of by Facility Services but we can all use your help. Charge your drains periodically and let Facilities or RM&S know if there is a consistent problem in your area. Good luck and happy investigating.



### Centered on Service

Using a vehicle on university business? Check out the CSU's "Use of University and Private Vehicles Policy Guidelines" online: [http://www.csurma.org/pdf/csumv\\_policy\\_guideline.pdf](http://www.csurma.org/pdf/csumv_policy_guideline.pdf) for answers to any questions you may have regarding driving a state, campus, leased, or private vehicle to conduct university business. Still have questions? Call Risk Management & Safety at ext. 4502 and we'll help you find the answer!

## CHILD SAFETY LAWS

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- Infants must always ride in the rear seat, facing the rear of the vehicle.
- Make sure everyone is buckled up correctly. Infants and very young children should be in child safety seats. Young children should be properly restrained using a booster seat.
- Unbelted or improperly belted occupants can be hurt or killed by a deploying air bag.

This all seems pretty straight forward. It begins to get confusing when you throw "LATCH System" and "Airbag safety" into the mix. I bet you're thinking to yourself right now, "What is a LATCH system?" A LATCH system is "The Lower Anchors and Tethers for Children" system. Some of you just said "Oh, those things!" Believe it or not, those are there for a reason. They were designed to help secure the safety seat by using the tethers as an anchorage point. For more information on this feature, please check with your vehicle manufacturer.

Let's talk air bag safety. Air bags were designed to help protect adults and older children in a collision. They are meant to be used with your vehicle's safety belt system. These devices have attributed to saving many lives and preventing serious injuries. However, there are some important things to know about vehicles equipped with airbags. In order to protect an average sized adult from injury, the air bag needs to inflate at nearly 200 mph. While this force may be appropriate for adults and older children, it can be dangerous and sometimes fatal for small children. Protect your child from air bag injury by keeping the following rules in mind:

- Children 12 years and younger should **always** ride in the back seat. Make sure they are secured in the appropriate safety restraint system (infant, convertible or booster seat). If that means they require a safety seat, then make sure the seat is correctly installed in your vehicle every time you start the car. Kids are smart and can easily escape!
- **Never** place babies or rear-facing car seats in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with air bags. The safest place for a child safety seat is secured in the back seat.
- If you have no choice and have to use the front passenger seat for a child requiring a safety seat, make sure the seat is pushed as far away from the air bag as possible. Again, **NEVER** place babies in rear-facing car seats in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with air bags. If your vehicle is equipped with a switch to disable the air bag, make sure you use it when a child is in the front seat. Remember, the back seat is always the safest place for children!

Okay, they're 6 years old or 60 pounds. Now what? The NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) suggests that if the child meets the legal age or weight requirement, then a booster seat is no longer necessary when the child can sit with their back against the vehicle's seat back with knees bent over the edge of the seat without causing the body to slouch; this is usually when a child reaches 4'9". The child is then said to be able to ride using the vehicles seat belt system.

#### Additional Resources

**Boost America** – A highway safety campaign designed to send the message to parents and children that booster seats are the safe and fun way to ride in a vehicle.

<http://www.boostamerica.org>

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** – They are the government agency responsible for ensuring and improving automobile and traffic safety.

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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happy to assist the department supervisors in determining the proper type of PPE for each specific job. Please call **Debbie High** at x4510 for further assistance regarding the Personal Protective Equipment program.

# We Need Your Help!

-Deborah Smith

As our campus community and facilities increase in size, so do the number of incidents that occur on campus. These incidents range from the absent-minded slips, trips and falls to serious accidents and illnesses. By our very nature, individually we want to help anyone we witness involved in an accident or seriously overcome by an illness. Help comes in many forms, and in some instances, can actually hinder aiding the hurt or ill person (victim). I am recommending that you follow a few simple steps to assist the victim. Keeping these in mind will help to insure that the appropriate campus personnel are allowed to respond and manage the incident to the benefit of the victim.

- **#1** Call University Police Dispatch at 760-4567 immediately when you are, or someone else is injured or becomes severely ill. This includes the ordinary slips, trips, falls, and fingers slammed in doors, as well as the critical fainting, convulsions and heart attacks. Dispatch will determine the severity of the incident and send police and/or emergency personnel to respond accordingly.
- **#2** Stay calm, keep the person calm and as physically comfortable as possible until the police arrive. Please do not move anyone unless they are able to move themselves or it is obvious they may be further injured if not moved.
- **#3** Allow the police and/or emergency personnel to assist the person without interference. If your assistance is needed, for information as a witness, or in some other respect, the officer in charge will ask for it.
- **#4** Please do not call the University Police Dispatch unit to ask about the incident. The dispatcher needs to stay focused on responding to the incident, and we need to keep their phone lines clear. If, in your capacity as a university employee, you need to know about the person or the status of the incident, you will be contacted as soon as possible by a University Police department representative, or other responsible staff member.

We really do need your help, so that our trained and responsible staff can help others when needed! If you have any questions about your role in responding to an incident, please contact one of the following departments:

<b>University Police</b>	<b>750-4567</b>	<a href="mailto:dispatch@csusm.edu">dispatch@csusm.edu</a>
<b>Risk Management &amp; Safety</b>	<b>750-4502</b>	<a href="mailto:riskmanagement@csusm.edu">riskmanagement@csusm.edu</a>
<b>Human Resources &amp; Equal Opportunity</b>	<b>750-4416</b>	<a href="mailto:hreo@csusm.edu">hreo@csusm.edu</a>

## Hazardous Communication Training

February 12, 2003  
SCI 316 From 11:30AM-12:30PM

## Radiation Safety Training

**February 26, 2003**  
**SCI 316 - 11:30AM - 12:30PM**

## RISK MANAGEMENT 101

**February 20, 2003**  
**from 10:15-11:15 in COM 206**

The OSHA summary of employee reportable injuries and illnesses is posted in the HR lobby, the dome and USB.

## Can You Find All The Words?

ACADEMIC HALL  
ASSESSMENT  
AUDIT  
AWARENESS  
BIOHAZARD  
CAL STATE SAN MARCOS  
CHEMICAL  
COMPLIANT  
CONFINED SPACE  
COUGAR  
ERGONOMIC  
EYE PROTECTION  
FIRE  
FIRST AID  
GLOVES  
HAZARDOUS  
HYGIENE  
INDOOR AIR QUALITY  
INSPECTION  
LOCK OUT  
MISSION  
MITIGATION  
PREVENTION  
RADIOACTIVE  
REGULATORY  
REMEDATION  
REQUEST FOR FACILITY USE  
RIGHT TO KNOW  
RISK CONTROL  
SAFETY FIRST  
TRAINING  
WAIVER

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P	U	E	S	U	Y	T	I	L	I	C	A	F	R	O	F	T	S	E	U	Q	E	R	S	I	M	A	M	G	M	T	R