

UC Santa Barbara
Policies

Policy 5400

Issuing Unit: Administrative Services

Date: June 1, 1989

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

I. REFERENCES (Available at the Environmental Health and Safety Office):

- A. California Code of Regulations: Title 8, Title 17, Title 19, Title 22, Title 24, Title 26
- B. California Health and Safety Code, NFPA National Fire Codes, Uniform Fire Code, Uniform Building Code and other applicable campus, local, state and federal safety and health standards.
- C. University Policy on Environmental Health and Safety, Office of the President (1987).
- D. University of California, Santa Barbara policies related to health, safety and the environment.

II. POLICY:

The University shall maintain as safe and healthy an environment as is reasonably feasible for its students, faculty, staff and visitors by:

- A. Conducting its operations and activities in a safe manner to minimize the risk of injury to people and minimize property damage at all locations where University operations and/or activities occur.
- B. Complying with applicable regulations, safety and health consensus standards, and practices generally accepted by experts in the field.

III. DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Vice Chancellors are responsible for ensuring that units under their authority comply with the campus environmental health and safety policy. Deans, unit heads, principal investigators, and supervisors are accountable for establishing and maintaining programs to ensure compliance within their areas and which will provide a safe and healthy environment.

All employees are responsible for knowing the applicable safety regulations governing the activities they carry out and are accountable for complying with them.

The Environmental Health and Safety Office (EH&S) is responsible for developing safety education and monitoring programs to ensure compliance with campus environmental health and safety policy. EH&S is authorized to inspect all areas of the campus.

In case of regulatory and/or life safety and health violations, the Director of EH&S or his/her designee has the authority to order the cessation of the activity until the

hazardous condition is abated or adequate measures (as determined by the EH&S Director/designee) are taken to minimize exposure for bodily harm or property damage.

IV. PROCEDURES:

To anticipate and respond to health and safety issues. EH&S will establish, coordinate, and maintain programs to educate and provide training to the campus community. Environmental Health and Safety programs will address specialized areas as well as more general topical issues. They will provide guidelines for compliance with regulations, and with published standards of recognized professional health and safety organizations.

Environmental Health and Safety will inspect and monitor environmental health and safety elements in all campus operations and activities.

Cessation of Activities

In the event that the Director/designee orders cessation of an activity due to the serious nature of the hazard, EH&S will communicate the violation(s) to 1) the principal party; 2) the Vice Chancellor, Administrative Services and, if different, the Vice Chancellor to whom the unit ultimately reports; and 3) the appropriate dean and unit head. The activity may be resumed only with the approval of the Director/designee in consultation with the appropriate Vice Chancellors, Dean and unit head.

V. PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

Environmental Health and Safety programs will include but are not restricted to:

Biological Safety

Regulations and accepted standards of the campus Biosafety Committee governing the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous biological agents and materials will be observed. The biological safety program includes facility surveillance, personnel training, and investigating new methods to handle and dispose of biohazardous materials in compliance with regulatory and University controls.

Construction Safety

All construction and alteration projects will be monitored to ensure that potential hazards and disruptions have been minimized by using proper barricades, traffic controls (pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle), and noise and dust abatement measures. Contractors working on campus owned or leased property will be held responsible for complying with the campus environmental health and safety policy.

Disaster Preparedness

The development, dissemination, and maintenance of disaster preparedness plans will be coordinated by Environmental Health and Safety. Preparedness plans define appropriate responses to disasters and outline how diverse campus and non-campus emergency service units (defined in the Emergency Operations Manual) will be coordinated. Departments will develop departmental response emergency plans, assisted by Environmental Health and Safety.

Diving and Boating Safety

Scuba diving and small boat operations under the auspices of the University shall be conducted in compliance with state and federal regulations, American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) safety standard, and the campus diving control board manual.

The purchase of "self-contained underwater bathing apparatus" (SCUBA) and related equipment, boats, and engines shall be monitored and approved by EH&S to ensure that users are qualified and approved. All scuba diving and boating equipment shall be inspected and maintained in compliance with referenced regulations.

Technical evaluation of environmental concerns will be undertaken in areas such as air quality, toxic emissions inventory and control, and underground storage tanks. EH&S will coordinate activities with government regulatory agencies, obtain necessary permits and represent University needs and interests.

Fire Protection

Facilities and equipment shall be inspected, maintained, occupied and operated in compliance with mandated regulations and accepted standards to protect life and minimize the risk of injury and property damage from fire. The design and construction of new University-affiliated facilities or alterations to existing facilities shall, at a minimum, comply with State Fire Marshal regulations. Program elements include the monitoring and enforcement of safe occupant loads in classrooms facilities, and at special events.

General Safety and Accident Prevention

Campus and campus-leased facilities, transportation systems, grounds, equipment and fleet vehicles will be maintained to reduce the risk of accidental injury and minimize University exposure to liability. Programs will be developed to identify, evaluate, and correct factors to a reasonable degree which may contribute to accidental injury of members of the campus community.

Hazardous Waste

All University operations shall be conducted so that chemical and radioactive waste is minimized. All waste produced will be collected stored, and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

Industrial Hygiene/Hazardous Materials Management

Occupational health hazards will be identified, evaluated and controlled in all campus activities, including facilities maintenance, laboratory functions, office work and other areas as needed. Program priorities will focus on engineering controls, followed by administrative controls and then personnel protective equipment. Program elements include comprehensive, routine, and emergency management of hazardous materials.

The care and use of laboratory animals must comply with state, federal, University regulations, and with accepted standards for humane treatment.

Occupational Health

The occupational health programs will include surveillance, identification, and the coordination of preventive measures to respond to occupational diseases and injury consistent with regulatory guidelines, accepted industry standards, and University policy.

Radiation Protection

Regulations shall be observed in the use of radioactive materials and radiation producing machines, including lasers and other sources of nonionizing radiation. The provisions of our California radioactive materials license, the Radiation Safety Manual, and regulations established by the Radiation Safety Committee shall be observed and enforced. All exposure to ionizing radiation and all releases of radioactive materials to the environment shall be kept as low as reasonably achievable, but always below the applicable regulatory limits.

Relations with Governmental Agencies

Environmental Health and Safety will communicate and consult with coordinate activities with, and guide official regulatory agencies on all environmental health and safety issues relating to the campus.

Sanitation

All University facilities and grounds, including swimming pools, construction sites, living quarters, and food service operations shall be maintained and operated in compliance with applicable regulations and accepted standards of sanitation. Activities shall include but not be limited to good housekeeping practices, water quality, insects and rodent control, and liquid and solid waste disposal.

Seismic Safety

Emergency planning, training, and seismic hazard abatement programs (such as seismic bracing) shall be conducted on a regular basis to minimize the possibility of injury and property damage associated with earthquakes. Inspections and

surveys of campus facilities for compliance with University policy on seismic hazards shall be conducted.

Training

Training of employees and students in all pertinent areas of safety and health shall be supported and promoted.

For questions or comments regarding the format of the above information, please contact webcontact@ucsbuxa.ucsb.edu.

Last Modified By: HMW, 5/21/97

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