Southern Oregon University

Occupational Safety Advisory Committee (OSAC)

Minutes

Meeting Date and Time: 4/3/23 10:00am Chaired by: Michele Barlow

Members in Attendance:

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| Russell Deen | Sue Phillips | Kay Swader |
| Patricia Syquia McCarthy | Bethnay Lindbloom |  |
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Old Business: (Last meeting 12/5/22)

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| * Added Oregon State Vaccine database to HR Resumption of Activities page under COVID 19 Vaccination Information slider <https://myelectronicvaccinecard.oregon.gov/>
* Flu Cases rising in Jackson County – [Dec 1st report from KTVL](https://ktvl.com/news/local/flu-cases-rising-in-jackson-county) indicates flu levels in Jackson Country are high and circulating widely. Public Health says flu activity across the state and country has increased rapidly and earlier than in previous years. The current dominant flu strain has been associated with a more sever flu season for children and the elderly. Jackson County Public Health shared four preventative actions to take to protect against the flu. They are 1) get a flu vaccine, 2) covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, washing hands with soap and water, and cleaning surfaces, 3) get tested for respiratory infections, and 4) take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.
* Space Heaters - Portable space heaters are used for supplementary heating of spaces. Space heaters that are recommended are the oil filled radiator style space heaters. This is due to safety reasons in that they do not get as hot as other styles of heaters and are more energy efficient. Space heaters are required to be plugged directly into outlets. Space heaters cannot be plugged into extension cords or power strips. Space heaters cannot be covered by fabric or other flammable material. Damaged units will need to be removed and replaced as required. If unit is causing excessive power drain on building they will need to be replaced. Portable electric heaters are high-wattage appliances that have the potential to ignite nearby combustible materials like curtains, beds, sofas, paper, clothing, and flammable liquids. If ignition results from a heater left on and unattended, a major fire could result. Safety is a top consideration when using space heaters. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, resulting in more than 300 deaths. In addition, an estimated 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting the hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations. Keep space heaters 3 feet away from flammable materials, install smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors on every floor and in every bedroom. Test smoke alarms to make sure they are working properly. Replace batteries once a year. Never use generators inside (carbon monoxide risk) Another option for heating/warming yourself is a usb powered throw or lap blanket and layered clothing.
* Christmas Tree Lights – Turn off lights when away from home or when sleeping, do not overload extension cords, do not use indoor lights outdoors, wash hands after handling (lead)
* Seven Steps to stay safe in cold weather – Listen to the weather forecast, plan ahead, dress warmly, seek shelter, stay dry, keep active and be aware
* Winter travel tips – Share travel plans with family or friends, pack an emergency supply kit, winterize your vehicle, check road conditions, get the weather forecast
* Hazardous conditions on campus – Watch for and report any broken tree branches. Report any icy walkways.
* Octobers – Great American Shakeout – Alerts went out. If you didn’t get an alert double check your enrollment for SOU Alerts.
* Landscape has contracted out with tree service to address hazardous limbs.
* Patricia mentioned that people want to know if prescription information posted on EHS website is accurate. (Non-prescription medication) – still accurate per Russell.
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New Business:

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| * SOU Alerts – Please remind others to sign up for SOU Alerts. Important campus notices such as inclement weather, closures/delays and other urgent campus alerts are sent through this system.
* April Safety Month - April is [Distracted Driving Awareness Month](https://safestart.com/driving-awareness-toolkit/), [Workplace Violence Awareness](http://www.workplaceviolenceawareness.org/) Month, [Worker’s Memorial Day](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/workmemorial/default.html) (April 28) – Anniversary date of when OSHA was founded, [National Work Zone Awareness](https://www.nwzaw.org/) Week (4/17-4/21), [World Health Day](https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2021) (April 7)
* School Safety – Recent school shootings – Just wanted to bring this up as a reminder to ensure safety of buildings by not leaving doors propped open, watch your surroundings, have a plan in place to “Run, Fight, Hide”. If you hear/see something of concern (conversation about a threat) say something.
* SHWC – Going to be mask optional as of 4/3 change in Oregon masking requirements in healthcare settings
* Campus email going out about Narcan – Have Overdose kits on campus.
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Incident Reports: Employees

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| * 1/24/23 – Student employee hurt right foot/ankle when a shower door came off track and fell off track and landed on her foot
* 2/2/23 – burn to legs from a cooking heating device – not seeking treatment
* 3/1/23 – Employee slipped on walkway (snow/ice) and hurt their back. No treatment sought.
* 3/28/23 – Employee tripped on a step and fell, hurting left knee/back. No treatment sought at this time.
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Incident Reports: Students

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* 3/10/23 – Student broke ankle at Lithia Stairs. Unknown cause
* 3/15/23 – Student slipped on icy walkway twice, hurting back
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