

Safetyline 111

H & S UPDATE MARCH 2010

The University's Security Services report that there has been a significant increase in the number of emergency calls from staff and students being made directly to the Emergency Services, bypassing the Control Room, which results in the University not being made aware of accidents and incidents and are unable to attend to help deal with the incidents. We strongly recommend you add the **University's Emergency Number** (0114 222 4444) to the list of "Contacts" in your mobile phone.

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*We are finding that a few people doing the **online "Out of Hours" course** are doing it several times, often 10 times or more. We believe that people think that when doing the assessment that they can click to go back to a question that has been answered incorrectly to put in the correct response but the system will not accept corrected answers and will report the first incorrect response to a question. In the event a person fails to achieve the required pass rate then we accept that he or she may need to repeat the training, but this should not require the number of attempts we're seeing. We have asked the developer to put a "block" on the assessment section to prevent anyone trying to do the assessment more than 3 times in a 12 month period, with a message that if they have failed the assessment three times within 12 months to contact their Departmental Safety Officer to discuss the problem with them. There will be no block on the training module. New "Recovery Position" and Severe Bleeding" videos have been introduced to clarify the required techniques.*

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If you have lost Technical staff from your department as a result of VSS, check to make sure that safety equipment previously serviced and maintained by the technicians who have left are now being maintained by others trained to look after such equipment. **Gas sensing equipment** requires annual sensor replacement, servicing and calibration; make sure someone is checking that they still work correctly and being regularly maintained.

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*In the event of **fire alarms in Lecture Theatres**, lecturers are asked to direct their students to the relevant Assembly Point which is indicated on the "Safety Information" poster in all centrally booked lecture theatres and seminar rooms. A recent evacuation from the Arts Tower resulted in many students evacuating via the main staircase instead of the fire exits from the basement lecture theatres. Please direct students out of buildings via the nearest fire exit where possible.*

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A new government campaign is warning people about the **potential effects medicines can have on their ability to drive**. Some over-the-counter and prescription medicines can cause dizziness, drowsiness, lack of concentration and reduced coordination. It is an offence to drive or attempt to drive while unfit through drugs and the law does not distinguish between illegal drugs and medicines. One million advice leaflets are being distributed through 2,600 Boots stores as part of the campaign to raise driver awareness. www.dft.gov.uk/think/drugdrive/legaldrugs.shtml

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RoSPA is arranging to run a 2-day **IOSH Work Placement Assessors Course** on 20<sup>th</sup> May in Birmingham at a cost of £295 +VAT for RoSPA members or £325 +VAT for non-members. The course is suitable for those who arrange, monitor or administer work experience placements. It will equip delegates with the knowledge to be able to assess a work place in terms of health and safety to determine its suitability as a work experience placement. To find out more about these courses, call 0121 248 2077 or email [ngriffiths@rospa.com](mailto:ngriffiths@rospa.com).

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An A4-sized "**Stepladder Guide**" poster is available on Safety Services web site in the "Work Equipment" section of the "General Guidance" webpage.