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# Ames Laboratory

*Creating Materials & Energy Solutions*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

*ESH&A Newsletter - February 2016*

## Monthly Safety Hero



The February Safety Hero is Kevin Dennis. Kevin, a Laboratory scientist who can most days be found in the basement of Wilhelm, identified the west Wilhelm steps as a potential safety concern. He pointed out that the concrete was degrading, and the safety rail was becoming loose. The concern has been relayed to F&ES. The stairs are still safe to use, but until repairs can be made in the spring please watch your footing in this area.

## Quality Assurance Assessment February 23 – 26

The DOE Ames Site Office and Integrated Support Center will be performing an assessment of the Laboratory's Quality Assurance Program (QAP) during the week of February 22, 2016. The focus of the assessment will be Work Processes, Design, Procurement, Inspection and Testing, and Suspect and Counterfeit Items Prevention. This is a good reminder that quality at the Laboratory is everyone's business, and proper practices improve safety, efficiency, and economy.

For a Quality refresher take a look at the [Quality Assurance Program Plan](#), or review [AL-222, Quality Assurance Program Awareness Training](#).

Results of the assessment will be covered in the March newsletter.

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### *Hoverboard or Hazardboard?*

Did you get a hoverboard over the holidays, or know someone who did? See important safety information here from [GearJunkie and the Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).



### Compressed Gases & Cryogenic Liquids Assessed



During the week of January 11, the Laboratory completed a joint Compressed Gas

and Cryogenic Liquids safety assessment. The assessment was led by DOE personnel from the Chicago Integrated Support Center, with assistance from ESH&A. The official findings are yet to be finalized, but preliminary results indicate a need to evaluate use and storage areas with the potential for oxygen deficient atmospheres, identify and remove out-of-date cylinders, and ensure correct labeling. Users are asked to check your cylinders and Dewars, and contact ESH&A if you need assistance with proper storage, labeling, or disposal.

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## Cutting Edge Science Relies On Healthy Support Staff – Is Your Office Area Safe?

The on-line version of [Health and Safety Magazine](#) provides an archive of articles related to office safety, including workplace vision, ergonomics, emergency planning, and [25 Steps to a Safer Office](#).

A safe workplace starts with you, so take a minute to review the articles, and share with others. If you find a topic that especially interests you, or raises questions, please contact your ESH&A expert in G40.

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## Environmental Events in February

### February 2 - World Wetlands Day

Wetlands:

- Provide habitat for a wide variety and number of wildlife and plants.
- Filter, clean and store water.
- Collect and hold flood waters.
- Absorb wind and tidal forces.
- Provide places of beauty and many recreational activities.

Learn more about wetlands and their management in [Iowa](#) and the [United States](#).

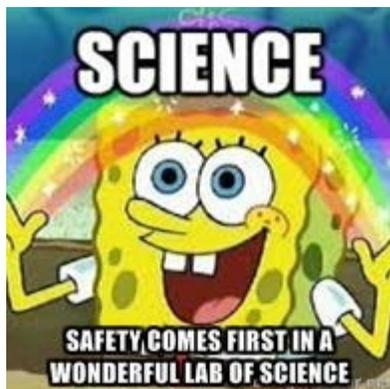
### February 29-March 1 - Iowa State University's Live Green! [Symposium on Sustainability](#)

One World, Green World: Embracing our Collective Connections toward a Legacy of Sustainability

Featuring:

- Keynote Lecture: Climate Change in the Long Emergency
- Sustainability Poster Receptions
- Sustainapalooza

- Live Green! Awards for Excellence in Sustainability
- Documentary Screening and discussion: Racing Extinction



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