AMES LABORATORY
Creating Materials & Energy Solutions
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ESH&A Newsletter - July 2016

Operation Safety: Laboratory Unite! drew quite a crowd this past month! Over 175 people participated in at least one of the 16 events that were held during National Safety Council's Safety Month. These events provided information and tools through classroom sessions, sparked discussion through scenario based activities and opened our eyes to the ways we all can be safer at work, at home and on the road.

The Safety Squad could use your help planning our next Operation Safety: Laboratory Unite! event. Please take a minute to fill out this short survey.

Highlights from Operation Safety:

Week 1: Stand Ready to Respond

Keith Morgan, Story County Emergency Management Coordinator, presented "Disasters: Preparedness and Response".

- One attendee's comment: *"The speaker did a great job of articulating specific steps that we should take to protect ourselves, our families, our business, and our community..."*

Week 2: Be Healthy

- Stephanie Downs, ISU Wellness Coordinator, presented "Think. Live. Be Well."
  - One attendee's comment: *"I appreciated that she gave us tools that we can use at our desk to help us cope with stress and improve our overall well being."*

Week 3: Watch Out For Dangers

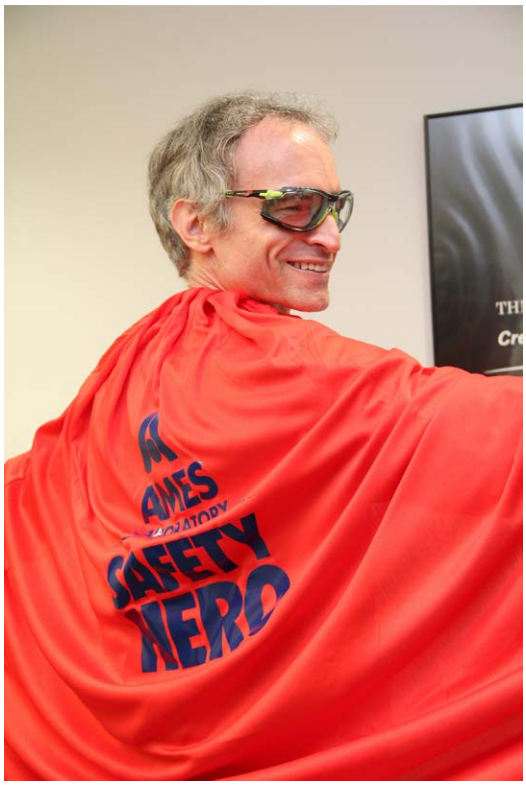
- Mary Beth Mulcahy, U.S. Chemical Safety Board Investigator, spoke about the importance of learning from accidents and incidents, mentoring the next generation of scientists and while it may be improbable that an accident will occur, it is not impossible.
  - One attendee's comment: *"I really liked how she weaved in stories from her experience to bring relevancy and impact to her overall message."*

Week 4: Share Roads Safely

- Eric Snyder, Ames Police Department Community Resource Officer presented about how to Bike Walk Drive SMART.
  - One attendee's comment:*"There were immediate takeaways that I can begin doing while walking, riding, and driving."*

Safety Hero

This month's Safety Hero is Bruce Spire! Bruce attended the most sessions during Operation Safety Month. For his dedication to safety he gets to be the first recipient of the Safety Hero cape!



Pictured on the left: ESH&A Manager Sean Whalen, Safety Hero of the Month Bruce Spire and Director Adam Schwartz. Adam is pictured presenting Bruce with the new Safety Hero cape.

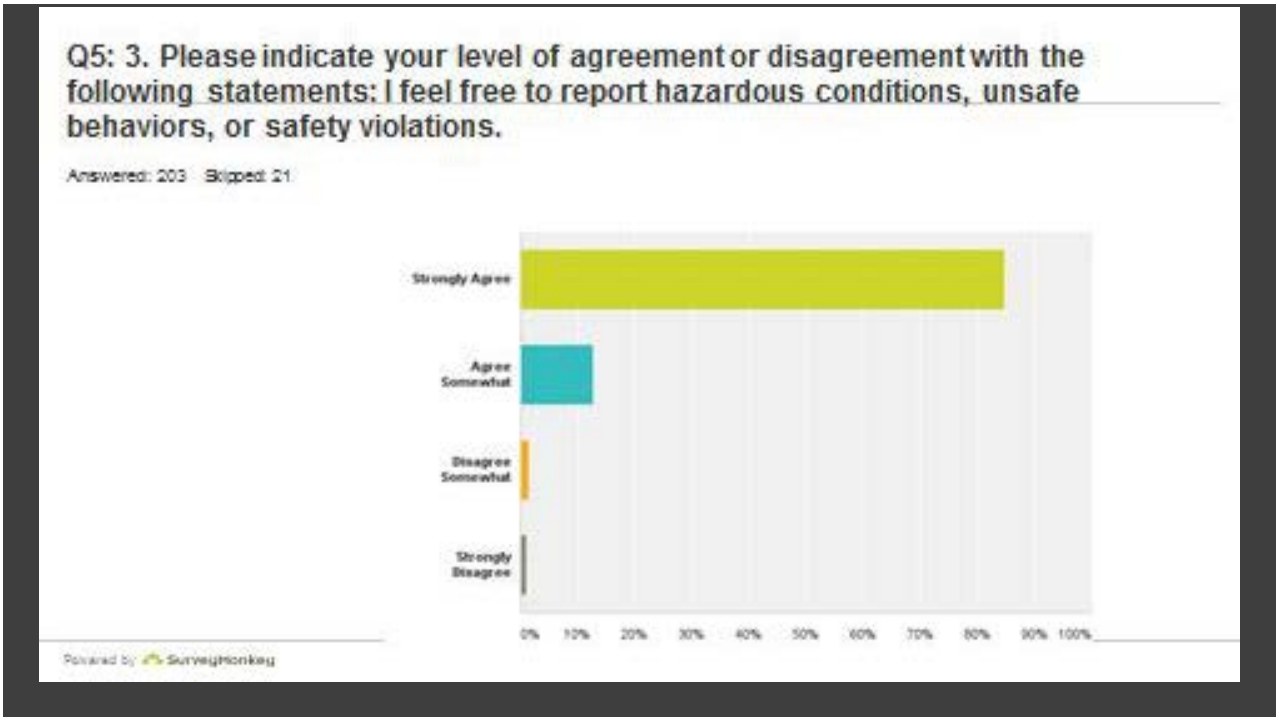
Pictured on the right: Bruce Spire showing off the new traveling Safety Hero cape.

RECAP - Ames Lab Safety Culture Survey

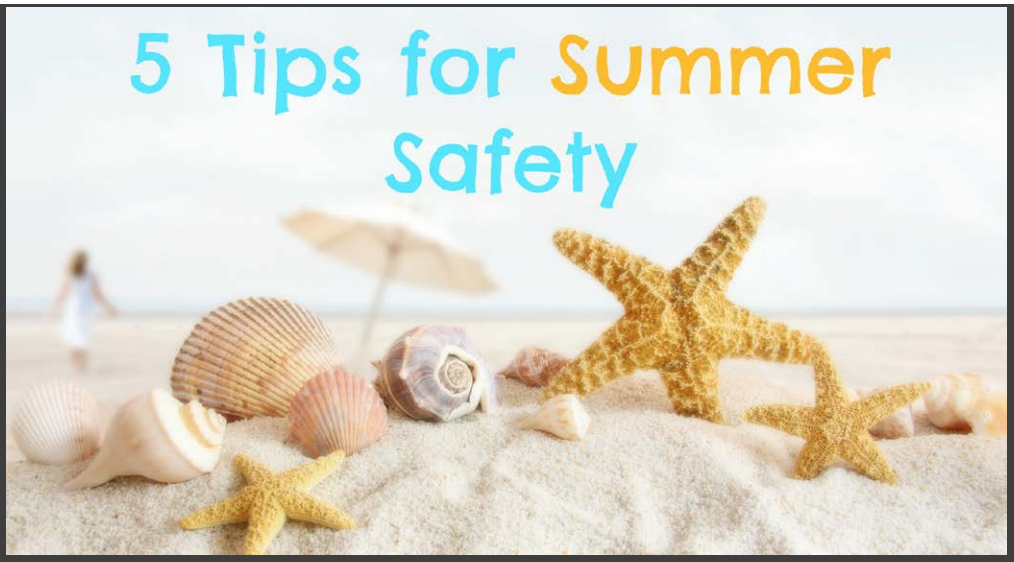
Thank you to all who participated in the recent Ames Lab Safety Culture Survey! We had 224 participants. Preliminary review indicates an overall positive safety culture attitude among respondents, with strengths identified in areas of management support, interactions with ESH&A, and freedom and awareness of how to report unsafe conditions. Areas for improvement include promoting access to the ESH&A website, increasing recognition for safety achievement, and encouraging participation across all employee groups.

Data from the Safety Culture Survey, Operation Safety, and other on-going efforts will be analyzed to help formulate future improvements. The data will be posted to the Ames Lab website in its entirety.

More stories coming soon!

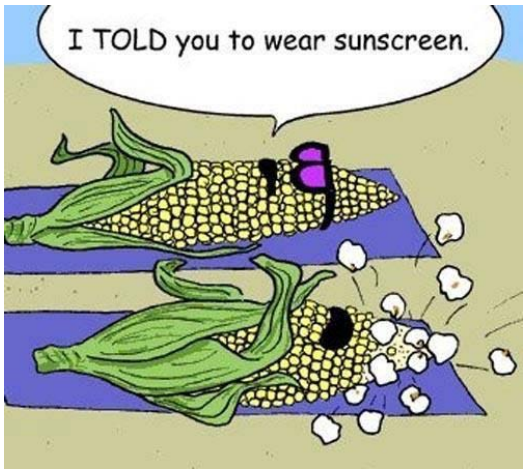


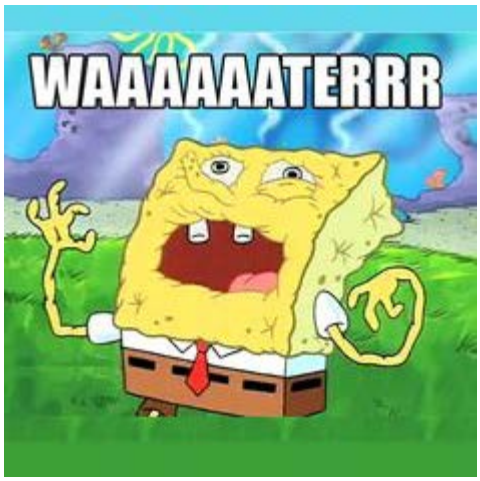
Are you one of the 265 people in the lab who are currently overdue on their training requirements? The only way to know is to log-in to your Cyber Train account and check! Can't remember how? Head over to the Training Department's webpage to get step-by-step instructions. If you prefer the "old-fashioned approach" you are always welcome to swing by 105 TASF and Molly or Hiliary will be happy to help!



1. Hydrate
2. Stay Cool
3. Protect Your Skin and Eyes
4. Kids
5. Grill Safety

Please use links provided for more information





UPDATE

University of Hawaii Arm Amputation

It can never be stressed enough that a simple process such as **Stop**, **Think**, **Check**, and **Ask Questions** can prevent most accidents. Please keep this event, and others, in mind as you work safely every day.

The independent investigation by the University of California (UC) Center for Laboratory Safety into the March 16, 2016 explosion in a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa laboratory which cost a researcher her arm has been completed. The UC team identified the likely physical cause to be an electrostatic charge and also provided recommendations on how UH and universities and research facilities across the country can improve laboratory safety practices.
The investigative team published its findings in two separate reports, one detailing the technical analysis and one providing recommendations. Information in the summaries is particularly relevant to research activities at Ames Laboratory.

This accident at the UH laboratory showcases once again the challenges that academic research laboratories face in addressing physical hazards of experimental processes and recognizing potential hazardous consequences when experimental procedures are changed. In scientific research the experimental outcome often becomes the driving force and overrides risk considerations. In this respect, the UH lab explosion is similar to the explosion at Texas Tech University and the fire at UCLA. (Technical Analysis of Accident Report)

While it could be argued that the experimental circumstances in the POST 30 lab were unique, the Investigative Team concludes that serious deficiencies in the institution's approach to laboratory safety contributed to a lapse in proper risk assessment and lack of a culture of safety that ultimately led to the accident. The Investigative Team noted systemic problems pointing to an overall lack of effective safety oversight at the UH campus, including insufficient training in hazard recognition and risk mitigation, poor gas cylinder safety, a deficient laboratory inspection program, a dated and ineffective chemical hygiene plan, and inadequate standard operating procedures (SOPs). Of particular significance for this accident was an absence of formal risk assessment protocols in place for processes involving highly hazardous chemicals such as explosive gases. (Recommendations Report)

Articles of Interest

Public Health Researchers Map World's 'Chemical Landscape'

Using data from well-studied substances, the map can predict hazards stemming from those for which no safety data exists.