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## *ESH&A Newsletter - August 2016*

### **August Safety Hero Kamalakar G. Baikerikar**



This month's safety Hero is Dr. K.G. Baikerikar, Associate Scientist in Materials Science and Engineering. K.G. has been an Ames Laboratory Safety Coordinator since November 1, 1989, and has been affiliated with Ames Laboratory since 1971 when he arrived to work as a post-doc with Dr. Hansen. Over nearly 27 years as safety coordinator he has witnessed significant improvement.

“[In 1989]...safety was taken lightly, now it is more heavily cared for. There is more helpful cooperation from employees and staff, which makes job easier.”

Thank You, K.G. for your dedication over the years and for your significant contribution to making Ames Laboratory a safe and healthy place to work and learn.

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## **Improvements Needed to ESH&A Website - A Lesson Learned from the Ames Lab Safety Culture Survey**

The recent Ames Lab Safety culture survey demonstrated that the ESH&A website is underutilized and not user friendly. 45% of respondents did not use the website in the past year. Of those that did, several left informative comments, including:

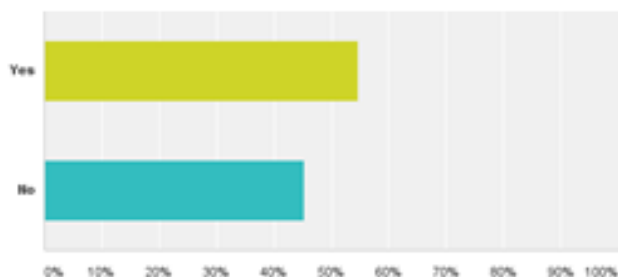
*“I do not find the website intuitive. I spend a lot of time looking around for what I want and even more time logging in for each new page.”*

*“IMO the website is not as user friendly as is possible in this technical era.”*

This provides a great opportunity to further evaluate our web resources and insert improvements into the Laboratory Safety Performance Improvement Plan (SPIP) and the ESH&A Strategic Plan, both of which have initiatives related to engagement and communication.

### **Q8: 6. I have utilized the ESH&A department website in the last 12 months.**

Answered: 203 Skipped: 21



Powered by  SurveyMonkey

**Note – Update on Survey Report:** The survey data, in its entirety, has been compiled into a report and is currently under review. When approved for posting the report will be

published on the website for staff review. We hope that having the information available to all staff will generate discussion and feedback.

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### **Environmental Events in August:**

Story County – Story County Conservation hosts: [Evening Prairie Walk](#), at Doolittle Prairie in Story City, August 25

Des Moines –

Riverstewards hosts: [15<sup>th</sup> Annual River Run Garbage Grab](#), from Saylorville to Yellow Banks Park, August 19

City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation hosts: [Standup Paddle with the Naturalist](#) on Gray's Lake, August 27 & 29

Iowa –

Iowa Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation hosts: [Free Kayaking Lessons](#), Springbrook Lake, August 13

Friends of Beeds Lake hosts: [Beeds Lake Restoration Run 1K, 5K, 10K or ½ Marathon](#), Beeds Lake, August 27



**Get Smart – Get Back to School Safety Tips**

Whether your kids are heading to K-12 or college, or you are excited about the return of students here at ISU, increasing your awareness and keeping your eyes peeled will help keep everyone safe. Kids (and adults) are running across streets, jumping bikes and skateboards over curbs, and chasing Pokémon. Distractions abound, so **watch, watch, watch** around you at all times.

The National Safety Council has a great [Back to School Safety](#) website, or if you are a returning ISU student (or know someone who is), follow the link to [Stay Safe at Iowa State](#).

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## Advanced Photon Source News

Important reminder about the transport of hazardous materials. Click [here](#) for more information to refresh your memory.



From infants to seniors, [PreventBlindness.org](http://PreventBlindness.org) provides great resources for a lifetime of healthy vision. According to the website, here are 5 things you can do to get your kids ready for school:

- Make sure your child's healthcare provider, educator, or public health program completes regular vision screenings.
- Take your child to an eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist) if they do not pass a vision screening, if they are at increased risk of a vision problem due to developmental delay, medical condition, or a family history of vision problems, or if you have a concern about your child's vision.
- Follow all treatment recommendations the eye doctor prescribes for your child- including eye glasses, wearing an eye patch, medications, and/or surgical recommendations.
- [Learn About Safety Eyewear for Your Child's Sports Activities](#)
- Know the eye exam or vision [Screening Requirements in Iowa](#)



Did you know there are three Ames Laboratory training sessions that are required to be completed by every employee every year? They are: Personally Identifiable and Moderate Data Training, Cyber Security Awareness Training and Business Ethics. All three of these are online learning modules that can be completed from the comfort of your office. When is the last time you logged on to Cyber Train to see if you were up-to-date? Can't remember? That means it's time as there are 200+ people in the Laboratory who are overdue for training. Use this [link](#) if you need help logging in to Cyber Train.

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### Are Pokémon Go Safety Issues Real?

The Pokémon Go craze may be slowing, but there are still plenty of people wandering around tossing Poke Balls at Charmander. With school starting soon, expect to see an uptick in students and staff walking around campus with their eyes locked on their phone screen. Yes, the safety issues are real, but Pokémon or not, distracted walking is still distracted walking, and can lead to bumps, bruises, missteps, or more serious injury. As always, keeping your head up can protect you and others from a poke in the eye or knock on the head.

According to a July 13, 2016 Wall Street Journal article, ['Pokémon Go' Craze Raises Safety Issues](#), there are several legitimate concerns, including the location of creatures and Poke Stops in unsafe areas, and potential dangers lurking at Poke Stops. However, there should be less concern about creatures being located in the middle of highways or rivers. Game

designer Niantic, "...blocks creatures from roadways, airport runways, bodies of water and other areas..." So no need to go swimming in Lake Laverne – sticking to the bank is just fine.



## POKÉMON GO SAFETY TIPS



Scope out a Pokestop or Gym before you go—is it in a safe neighborhood? Is it in a public area or secluded?

Parents should accompany young players to Pokestops or Gym's the first time they go to make sure it's a safe environment.

Be aware of your surroundings—make sure the Pokemon you're catching isn't in the middle of a street or other dangerous location.

Be respectful of Private Property—if you see a Pokemon in someone's yard or private area, DO NOT seek it out without permission.

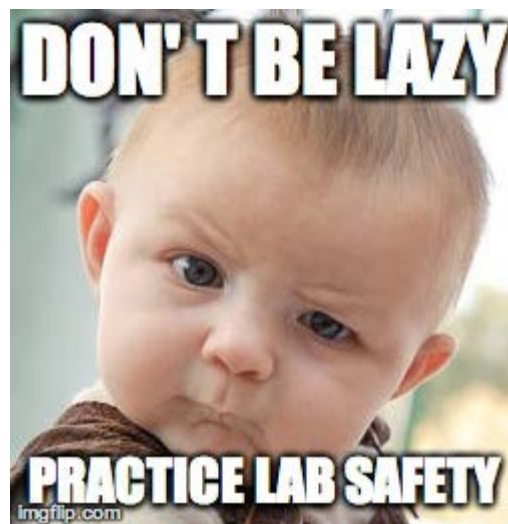
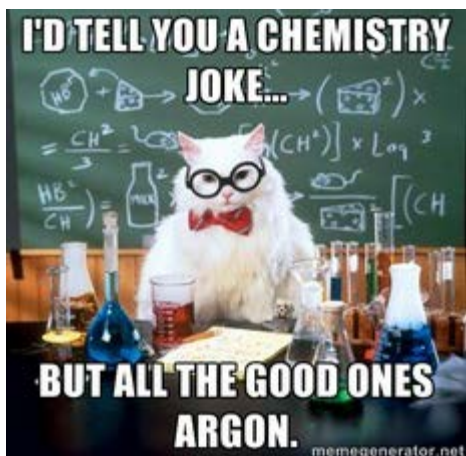
Avoid going to your favorite Pokestop or Gym after dark—even if they are safe during the day, robbers or other criminals might be present at night.

If your children play Pokemon Go, download the app yourself so you better know the potential safety risks. they might encounter.

[www.safewise.com](http://www.safewise.com)

Pokémon Go Safety Tips from the [Huffington Post](#) and Safewise.com





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