



STEM SAFETY DAY

2026



MORNING

SAFETY DAY OPENING CEREMONIES - Location: Cleone Peterson Eccles Alumni House

- 7:30AM Check-in Opens
- 8:00 - 9:10AM Breakfast Programming - Location: OC Tanner Ballroom (Alumni House)
- 8:00 - Breakfast Buffet Opens
 - 8:20 - Breakfast Sessions
 - **Room A: Psychological Safety – Cultivating a Climate of Safety, Improvement and Well-Being:** Dr. Jake Van Epps – PS Psychologist, Chief Wellness Office and Associate Director, Resiliency Center
 - **Room B: Big 12 Roundup - University Incidents Across the Big 12 and Lessons Learned:** Big 12 EHS Directors
 - **Room C: Better U Survey - 1 Year In on Main Campus Efforts:** Better U Steering Committee Members

SAFETY SEMINARS SESSION 1

- 9:30 - 10:20 AM
- Basic First Aid, including AED Use:** Jack Homen - Associate Instructor, The Center for Emergency Programs
Location: Dumke Reception Room
- Proposed NIH Biosafety Regulation Changes and New Federal Policy on Stopping High-risk Life Sciences Research:** Dr. Debbie Eckert - Biosafety Officer and Chris Hunter - Asst. Biosafety Officer, U of U Environmental Health and Safety
Location: Gardner Commons Building, Room 2760
- Overview of Resources for Students – Know What to do When Students You’re Working With Need Help:** Dr. Melanie Lee - Associate Dean of Students
Location: Beehive Conference Room
- Hazard Recognition and Next Steps for Facilities Personnel:** Dr. Jim Muller - Senior Director for Infrastructure, Space and Project U of U Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Location: Henriksen Conference Room
- Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training:** University and State Fire Marshall’s Offices
Location: Patel Conference Room
- Demystifying Laser and NIR EHS Permit Requirements on Campus:** Anthony Couey - Health Physicist, U of U Environmental Health and Safety
Location: Boyer Conference Room

SAFETY SEMINARS SESSION 2

10:35 - 11:25 AM

Basic First Aid including AED Use: Jack Homen - Associate Instructor, The Center for Emergency Programs

Location: Dumke Reception Room

Safe Chemical Storage 101 – Compatibility, Labeling and Navigating Nuances: Matt Lundquist - Senior Industrial Hygienist, U of U Environmental Health and Safety

Location: Beehive Conference Room

Stop the Bleed – Using Stop the Bleed/Training Kits found in AED Cabinets on Campus:

Ruth Braga and Jamie Troyer - U of U Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention

Location: Henriksen Conference Room

Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training: University and State Fire Marshall's Offices

Location: Patel Conference Room

Building Work Orders - From Customer Request to Facilities Install: Ensuring Safety from Start to Finish (Intended for Building Operations Managers and Facilities Personnel): Dr. Jim Muller - Senior Director for Infrastructure, Space and Project Delivery, U of U Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Location: Boyer Conference Room

Lunch

11:40 AM - 12:40 PM

Lunch Programming:

Location: OC Tanner Ballroom

- 11:40 - Lunch Buffet Opens
- 11:55 - PPE Fashion Show
- 12:10 - 12:40 PM - Remarks, Summary of Accident Injury Data and Awards



AFTERNOON

SAFETY SEMINARS SESSION 3

1:00 – 1:50PM

Compassionate Responses - Supporting Survivors of Violence: Center for Campus Wellness
Location: Dumke Reception Room

Suicide Prevention Task Force Updates: Scott McAward - Executive Director, University Counseling Center and Interim Director, Medical Student Wellness Program and Brittany Badger - Director, Campus Wellness
Location: Henriksen Conference Room

Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training: University and State Fire Marshall's Offices
Location: Patel Conference Room

Contractor Safety for Facilities Personnel: Derek Peterson - Senior Director, Facilities Management, District Operations
Location: Boyer Conference Room

SAFETY SEMINARS SESSION 4

2:00 - 2:50 PM

Opioid Overdose Prevention 101 (includes Narcan training): Center for Campus Wellness
Location: Dumke Reception Room

Mental Health Crisis De-Escalation: Amanda McNab - Quality Improvement & Training Manager, Huntsman Mental Health Institute
Location: Henriksen Conference Room

Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training: University and State Fire Marshall's Offices
Location: Patel Conference Room

Off-Road Driving Fundamentals and Hands-On Vehicle Inspection w/ Tire Change: Wil Mace - Senior Manager, Department of Geology and Geophysics
Location: Boyer Conference Room

How to Correctly Perform a Canula Transfer when Using Pyrophorics or Air-Sensitive Chemicals: Dr. Andrew Roberts - Associate Professor of Chemistry
Location: Andrew Roberts Lab, HEB 3170

Hands-On Basic Laser Safety Training: Dr. Rodrigo Noriega, Associate Professor of Chemistry [Limited to 5 participants]
Location: Rodrigo Noriega Lab, Thatcher 2428

SEMINARS/TRAINING SESSIONS WITH IRREGULAR MEETING TIMES

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Flu Vaccinations: Please register ahead of time for a 15-minute time slot
Location: Pugh Business Center

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Wilderness-Centric First Aid Training: Darby DeHart, Center for Emergency Programs [All Day Course]
Location: FASB 101

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM	PPE Try-On Extravaganza: Walk-In Any Time Throughout the Day Location: Sorenson Boardroom
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Ergonomic Tune-Up - A Personalized Safety Day Consultation: Steve Lee - Occupational Safety Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety (15-minute site visits to your office/workplace – must register ahead of time) Location: Your workspace!
9:45 - 10:15 AM	Chemical Spill Cleanup Training: Steve Natrop - Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety and Emily O'Hagan - Deputy Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety (Limit of 5 participants) Location: LSSB (Exact room TBD)
10:30 - 11:00 AM	Chemical Spill Cleanup Training: Steve Natrop - Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety and Emily O'Hagan - Deputy Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety (Limit of 5 participants) Location: LSSB (Exact room TBD)
1:00 - 3:00 PM	First Aid and CPR Certification Course: Jack Homen - Associate Instructor, The Center for Emergency Programs (Capacity of 25 - Participants must pay \$24.50 for the online portion and complete all online work before coming to the in-person session) Location: Beehive Conference Room
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Biological Spill Cleanup Training: Steve Natrop - Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety and Emily O'Hagan - Deputy Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety (Limit of 5 participants) Location: Wintrobe (Exact room TBD)
2:15 - 2:45 PM	Biological Spill Cleanup Training: Steve Natrop - Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety and Emily O'Hagan - Deputy Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety (Limit of 5 participants) Location: Wintrobe (Exact room TBD)

TABLING

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM	Location: 1st Floor Lobby - Fisher Scientific - Environmental Health and Safety Meet and Greet - EHS Walk-After Dark Volunteer Sign-Up - Department of Public Safety Meet and Greet - Department of Public Safety Bike Registration* - Campus Bike Shop - Free bike inspections, adjustments and maintenance education* - Huntsman Mental Health Institute - Research Integrity Office - Youth Protection and Program Support - Employee Wellness - Center for Campus Wellness (including Narcan/Naloxone Training) - Student Health and Wellness
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**Tables located outside*





SEMINAR/TRAINING DESCRIPTION

[Listed Alphabetically]

**For those activities below with a "Training" designation, certificates of completion will be emailed out to participants so that they can be included in Chemical Hygiene Plans or Field Safety Plans (if applicable) as part of your group's safety training documentation.*

Basic First Aid, Including AED Use [*Training]

This course will cover how to recognize when to call 911, what to do until an ambulance arrives and how to treat basic injuries and illnesses. This includes AED and compressions-only CPR training, but will not include a certification

Instructor: Jack Homen - Associate Instructor, The Center for Emergency Programs

Better U Survey: 1 Year In on Main Campus Efforts

One year after launching Better U on Main Campus, this session will highlight key findings, lessons learned, and the actions taken across local, college, and university levels to improve employee well-being. Participants will learn how Better U uses employee feedback to drive meaningful organizational change through insight reviews and action planning and discuss the 2026 survey relaunch as we begin measuring progress over time.

Presenters: Better U Steering Committee

Big 12 Roundup - University Incidents Across the Big 12 and Lessons Learned

Despite our best efforts, accidents sometimes do happen. However, it's important that when they do, we learn from those experiences and improve our practices and systems to minimize the chances of those same accidents happening again. In this session, we'll hear from Environmental Health and Safety Directors from across the Big 12 conference as they share times when things didn't go as planned and what was learned from those instances.

Presenters: Big 12 EHS Directors

Building Work Orders - From Customer Request to Facilities Install: Ensuring Safety from Start to Finish

Building Operations Managers work with both building occupants/users and district facilities personnel to ensure that infrastructure is not the limiting factor in the pursuit of cutting-edge research and education. A critical piece of this is ensuring that processes are in place to:

1. Identify hazards to both personnel and existing equipment or research before work begins
2. Inform and prepare the space, occupants and facilities personnel so that the work can be completed safely and efficiently

Presenter: Dr. Jim Muller - Senior Director for Infrastructure, Space and Project Delivery, U of U Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Chemical/Biological Spill Cleanup Training [Hands-On]

Participants will learn how to approach and clean up a general chemical or biological spill (depending on session participants register for) using the contents of a spill kit as purchased from EHS. It will also cover when you can try to clean up a spill yourself and when you need to evacuate an area and call for help. This will involve the hands-on cleaning of a simulated spill. Session capacity is limited and only those who have signed up ahead of time can participate in this training. Participants should bring their own PPE (lab coats, safety glasses/goggles) to this training. Gloves will be provided. This training will be at different sites on campus throughout the day so please note that location when registering.

Instructor: Steve Natrop - Regulated Waste Manager and Emily O'Hagan, Deputy Regulated Waste Manager, Environmental Health and Safety

Compassionate Responses

When someone discloses experiences of violence, abuse or harm, how we respond matters. This session equips participants with practical skills to provide compassionate, supportive and trauma-informed responses while maintaining appropriate boundaries and connecting individuals with resources and support.

Instructor: Center for Campus Wellness

Contractor Safety for Facilities Personnel

Cooperation and collaboration with contractors are essential to maintaining University operations, through both renovation and new construction. However, working with units from outside of the University brings with it unique safety considerations and challenges. This session is designed for those in the Facilities team and will discuss strategies and tools for addressing safety throughout the scope of work with a contracted company.

Instructor: Derek Peterson – Senior Director, Facilities Management, District Operations

Demystifying Laser and NIR EHS Permit Requirements on Campus

Class 3B and 4 lasers and many non-ionizing radiation-producing devices on campus require some level of permitting with Environmental Health and Safety. This can include “easy to forget” devices like lasers enclosed within equipment, UV components, systems that generate magnetic fields, etc. If your work involves any of these types of equipment, this session is for you! Join us and refresh on the requirements and how to work through the permitting process.

Presenter: Anthony Couey – Health Physicist, U of U Environmental Health and Safety

Ergonomic Tune-Up - A Personalized Safety Day Consultation

How many hours do you spend at your desk each day? How much time do you spend performing repetitive tasks such as pipetting? Prolonged sitting, repetitive motion, posture and workstation setup can significantly increase your risk of musculoskeletal strain and injury.

This 15-minute, one-on-one office visit provides an individualized ergonomic assessment conducted directly at your desk or workspace on campus. During the consultation we will evaluate your workstation configuration, task demands, posture and work practices, and offer practical, tailored recommendations to enhance comfort, efficiency and injury prevention.

Advance registration is required to reserve your session.

Instructor: Steve Lee - Occupational Safety Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety

First Aid and CPR Certification Course *[Some online work required ahead of time]*

This course will offer a deeper dive into first aid and CPR, giving participants the opportunity to get certified.

Participants **must** pay \$24.50 for the online portion and complete all online work before coming to the in-person session to receive the certification. Limited to 25 participants who **must** register ahead of time.

Instructor: Jack Homen - Associate Instructor, The Center for Emergency Programs

Hands-On Basic Laser Safety Training [*Training]

This session will be on-site at the Noriega lab and demonstrate practical, hands-on safety considerations when working with a laser/laser table. Limited to 5 participants and participants **must** register ahead of time.

Instructor: Dr. Rodrigo Noriega - Associate Professor of Chemistry

Hands-On Fire Extinguisher Training

Want to practice putting out an actual fire with a fire extinguisher? This is your chance! Stop by to get training on how and when to use a fire extinguisher and then put your knowledge to the test in a hands-on fire extinguishing experience.

Instructors: State and University Fire Marshall's Offices

Hazard Recognition and Next Steps for Facilities Personnel

The University of Utah has a broad range of facility types (classrooms, labs, shops, mechanical spaces, roofs, confined spaces, offices, etc.) and an even broader range of possible hazards. This course is designed for facility personnel and will focus on identification of hazards as well as follow-up steps after a potential hazard has been identified. Examples of actual situations will be shared to provide context and raise awareness.

Presenter: Dr. Jim Muller – Senior Director for Infrastructure, Space and Project Delivery, U of U Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

How to Correctly Perform a Canula Transfer when Using Pyrophorics or Air-Sensitive Chemicals [*Training]

Pyrophorics are an extremely hazardous class of reagents that can spontaneously combust upon exposure to air. Despite their hazards, they are critical to some reactions and processes. In these use cases, knowing how to work with them safely is critical. In this session, participants who work with pyrophorics will receive hands on training in a lab to learn how to properly setup and perform a canula transfer (one of the safer ways to transfer these reagents). Participants MUST register ahead of time to participate in this training.

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Roberts - Associate Professor of Chemistry

Mental Health Crisis De-Escalation

Information about skills and techniques for providing support and de-escalation for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

Instructor: Amanda McNab - Quality Improvement & Training Manager, Huntsman Mental Health Institute

Off-Road Driving Fundamentals and Hands-On Vehicle Inspection w/ Tire Change [Mix of classroom and outside time]

Remote field work and field courses often require researchers and students to travel via rough, 4x4 roads to remote locations. This session will focus on best practices for driving on these roads, how to visually inspect your vehicle before departing on your trip and hands-on practice for changing a large, off-road tire on a fleet vehicle set up for rough roads.

Instructor: Wil Mace – Senior Manager, Department of Geology and Geophysics

Opioid Overdose Prevention 101

Opioid overdoses can happen anywhere and knowing how to respond can save a life. In this session, participants will learn the principles of harm reduction, understand why overdose prevention skills are essential, receive hands-on naloxone (Narcan®) training and leave with their own naloxone kit.

Instructor: Center for Campus Wellness

Overview of Resources for Students: Know What to do When Students You're Working With Need Help

The University has a lot of resources for students who need support. However, knowing which resources are available, how to access them and when to recommend them can be a challenge for faculty, staff and even fellow students. This session will give an overview of the resources that are available so that you can best support your students and colleagues and is great for faculty, student-facing staff and TAs.

Presenter: Dr. Melanie Lee – Associate Dean of Students

PPE Try-On Extravaganza [Walk-In Any Time Throughout the Day]

Stop by the Sorenson Boardroom any time between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm to see and try on all shapes, sizes and styles of PPE. Includes lab coats, safety glasses (prescription and non-), cut resistant gloves, respirators, hearing protection and much more. Come find the PPE that you need to stay comfortable and safe in your work environment.

Proposed NIH Biosafety Regulation Changes and New Federal Policy on Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research

The NIH guidelines for conducting work with recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids has remained largely unchanged for 50 years. NIH is now revisiting these guidelines with the intention of “strengthening and modernizing biosafety oversight.” Proposed large-scale changes have been published, and the NIH is seeking stakeholder feedback. The majority of this session will cover these proposed changes and how they compare to the current guidelines. You will also find out how to submit your own comments and feedback to the NIH. This session will also touch on the recently published federal policy on stopping high-risk life sciences research.

Presenters: Dr. Debbie Eckert – Biosafety Officer and Chris Hunter – Asst. Biosafety Officer, U of U Environmental Health and Safety

Psychological Safety - Cultivating a Climate of Safety, Improvement and Well-Being

This presentation explores the foundational role of psychological safety in high-stakes STEM environments, ranging from clinical settings to research laboratories and academic innovation hubs. By cultivating a climate where individuals can report errors, challenge status quo methodologies and voice diverse perspectives without fear of retaliation, organizations can significantly enhance both operational safety and collective well-being. Ultimately, we examine how psychological safety serves as a critical driver for rigorous scientific discovery and the mitigation of occupational stress.

Presenter: Dr. Jake Van Epps – PS Psychologist, Chief Wellness Office and Associate Director, Resiliency Center

Safe Chemical Storage 101 – Compatibility, Labeling and Navigating Nuances

Questions/concerns that will be answered in this session include:

1. Can this be stored with that? Can that be stored with this?
2. What does separate storage really mean?
3. What about a substance that is both an organic AND an acid?
4. I have 1000 tiny vials. I can't write small enough and don't have enough time to label all those!
5. I don't fill up a waste container that fast but am told I can't keep it for more than a year, so what do I do?
6. And MUCH more!

Presenter: Matt Lundquist - Senior Industrial Hygienist, U of U Environmental Health and Safety

Stop the Bleed – Using Stop the Bleed/Training Kits Found in AED Cabinets on Campus

This session will go over how and when to use the stop-the-bleed kits, which are found in AED cabinets around campus. Fundamental techniques for assisting someone with major bleeding are covered, including the use of a tourniquet.

Instructors: Ruth Braga, U of U Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention and Jamie Troyer, U of U Trauma Outreach and Injury Prevention

Suicide Prevention Task Force Updates

Learn about the current landscape of suicide prevention at the University of Utah and the work being led by the Suicide Prevention Task Force. This session will highlight key initiatives in development, upcoming priorities and opportunities for faculty, staff and students to get involved in advancing a campus culture of care.

Presenters: Scott McAward - Executive Director, University Counseling Center and Interim Director, Medical Student Wellness Program, Brittany Badger – Director, Campus Wellness

Wilderness-Centric First Aid Training [All-Day Course]

This **all-day** course will focus on first aid skills and techniques applicable to more remote settings. This is **not** a WFR [Wilderness First Responder]-level training but is meant to dive deeper into wilderness first aid than a standard first aid course. Participants **must** register for this course to attend as capacity is limited.

Instructor: Darby DeHart - Center for Emergency Programs



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Questions or Concerns?
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