

January/February 2017

Happy New Year! We hope you had a safe and sustainable time during the university shutdown period. We are looking forward to the year ahead and the opportunities to improve performance through operational excellence. See below for initiatives already started.



2017 training dates

Training registration is now open for 2017 health and safety and emergency management training courses at UNSW. Book into face-to-face training courses by going to [myUNSW](#) then "Learning and Development" then choose the relevant course.

See the [health and safety training webpage](#) for more information.



Wellbeing

[UNSW Wellbeing](#) is looking to engage with the NSW Government's "[Get Healthy at Work](#)" program to make confidential health checks available to all staff and to assist us to develop a targeted and effective Wellbeing Plan for UNSW staff. More news on this exciting initiative next time!



Campus during storms

When moving around campus during strong winds or storm events staff and students are reminded to plan your route to utilise undercover areas where possible.

This is to avoid exposure to potential hazards such as falling tree branches, slippery surfaces (due to rain) or other flying objects/debris in exposed areas.

If you see a particular hazard or concern please report this to either [FM Assist](#) (extension 51111) or, if there is a serious threat to safety, [UNSW Security](#) on their Emergency number extension 56666.



GHS-compliant wash bottles

When purchasing wash bottles which are pre-labelled for chemicals, please ensure that they are compliant with the [Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(GHS\)](#). See photo on the left for an example.

You may keep using those you have already purchased if they have safety and hazard identification information on them. When decanting into unlabelled wash bottles you must now use the GHS system for hazardous chemicals for labelling.

From 1 January 2017 all chemicals manufactured must have GHS-compliant labels.



Pipette and centrifuge training

Free training is available on Wednesday 29 March 2017 for Liquid handling and pipettes and Centrifuge care, delivered by Eppendorf. There will be courses available on upper campus and lower campus. Liquid handling and pipette training (1 hour) will cover techniques for ultimate precision, repetitive pipetting and how to avoid injury and maintenance. Centrifuge care (1 hour) will cover correct loading, balancing, maintenance and how to deal with a spill. The training is open to staff and students. If you are interested please complete this [expression of interest](#).



SafeSys update

Some enhancements will be happening to [SafeSys](#) in 2017. Coming soon will be:

- New fields in the Plant and Equipment form, asking for information about whether equipment is intended for research purposes, whether it is bookable to other UNSW users, and the primary funding source (a reporting requirement in many funding grants).
- There will also be a new section called "Equipment Search" which will help you to easily find research equipment which is bookable.

Later in the year there will be enhancements in the following areas:

- Enhancements to all sections to improve functionality on Mac computers.
- Ability to export Competency Register information to Excel.
- Ability to cancel a submission for approval, in case changes are needed.

Users will be notified via the School SafeSys Administrator before any changes are made to the live site.



Community recycling centre

There are a number of Community Recycling Centres across NSW where "household problem wastes" can be dropped off, free of charge. Examples of items accepted include fluorescent tubes, paint, gas bottles, pool chemicals, car batteries, smoke detectors. Household quantities up to 20L of a singular item will be accepted. For more information see the [EPA Community Recycling Centres](#) page. The [Randwick Community Recycling Centre](#) is located in Matraville.

Household chemicals used in the workplace must follow the standard UNSW chemical waste disposal route.



Lessons learnt

The upper campus chemical waste store, shared by Medicine and Science, was shut-down for a period due to poor use of the store leading to a spill and unsafe storage. Containers were stored which were leaking, containers were stacked at risk of falling over, containers were stored without a correct lid.

The UNSW chemical waste contractor rightly refused to collect waste in this state, therefore the store was closed until the leak was dealt with, storage cabinets decontaminated and unsafe items removed. This shared store is a communal resource for everyone, if you abuse it you will impact everyone else's work. Review [HS503 Protocol for Chemical Waste Store](#) for full details on expected behaviour and use. Access will be removed if this is not complied with.

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