

# BCSC Newsletter... *Your Source For Safety*



ALERT: Hurricane Season



UWF BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY SAFETY COMMITTEE INFORMATION

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## BCSC News

On behalf of the BCSC, we would like to welcome Kenari Guest to the Chemistry Department and to the BCSC. Kenari is the lab manager for Building 58A.

The BCSC was established on February 15, 2008. The purpose of the committee is to maintain safety standards within Buildings 58, 58A, and the Wetlands Research Laboratory. Members of the committee represent departments within the aforementioned buildings.

### Committee members:

Dr. Theodore Fox (Chair), Dr. Joe Lepo, James Hammond (Secretary), Sherman Bonomelli, Erin Taylor, Jeremy Bosso, Kristen Hellein, Robin Schinzing, Michael Cochran, Tanya Streeter (Asst. Secretary), Kenari Guest and Pennie Sparks (Safety Coordinator, EH&S).

## Lab Inspections!!!

Kudos to everyone involved in keeping UWF up to codes. EH&S has done a wonderful job of keeping UWF safe for employees and students. Let's keep up the great safety record. If you have concerns about your lab or office, please contact EH&S at extension 2525 or the BCSC Chair Dr. Fox for assistance.

Check out the new webpage for EH&S. You can get up-to-date weather at this site. Go to: <http://uwf.edu/envhs/Weather.cfm>



## Autoclave Training

The BCSC asks that employees, who use the autoclave, take individual training on the proper use of the equipment. Michael Cochran will be giving the training. Please contact him at 2837 or email him at [mcochran@uwf.edu](mailto:mcochran@uwf.edu) to set up an appointment for training.

## BCSC Service

If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to sit in on committee meetings, contact Dr. Fox at ext. 2754 or [tfox@uwf.edu](mailto:tfox@uwf.edu) or any committee member. We value your opinion on safety matters. Email any of us for help with your safety concerns.

## Laboratory Spot Checks...

Pennie Sparks will continue to conduct laboratory inspections. Please her if you have concerns about your lab or any other lab.

## Hurricane preparation tips...

Remember to inventory your emergency kit from last season to ensure that items are not missing, expired, or new items need to be included.

Make a plan, get supplies and learn more about hurricane recovery.

## Calendar of Events

### Laboratory Safety Training

THE NEXT TRAINING CLASS: TBA

PLEASE ATTEND TRAINING IF YOU HAVE NOT HAD YOUR SAFETY TRAINING FOR THE YEAR. ALSO, PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS WORKING IN YOUR LABS TO ATTEND IF THEY HAVE NOT BEEN CERTIFIED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

### NEXT BCSC MEETING

JANUARY 10, 2011—BLDG 58 CONFERENCE ROOM, 2:00-3:00 P.M.

## Injury/Incidence Reports

### Reporting Period June—September 2010

BUILDING 58	1
BUILDING 58A	1
WRL	0

Report all injuries and complete incident reports. Submit forms to Robin Schinzing (58 Chem Stores) or Kenari Guest (58A Chem Stores).

**EMERGENCY—2911**  
Phones outside labs are connected directly to Campus Police

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Dr. Theodore Fox  
Biology Department

*BCSC Reporter*  
Tanya Streeter  
CEDB

**Questions about lab safety?** Call Pennie Sparks at 2177.



## Flooding

### *Things You Should Know... (From US Search and Rescue Task Force)*

Flash floods occur within a few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall, a dam or levee failure, or a sudden release of water held by an ice jam. Flash floods can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and bridges, and scour out new channels. Rapidly rising water can reach heights of 30 feet or more. Furthermore, flash flood-producing rains can also trigger catastrophic mud slides. You will not always have a warning that these deadly, sudden floods are coming. Most flood deaths are due to FLASH FLOODS.



Nearly half of all flood related deaths occur in vehicles. Most of these deaths take place when people drive into flooded highway dips or low drainage areas. A low water crossing is where a road, without a bridge, dips across a normally dry creek bed or drainage area. Motorists who attempt to cross these flooded low water crossings are putting themselves, their vehicles and any other occupants of their vehicles at deadly risk.

### Types of Flooding

- **River Flooding** Flooding along rivers is a natural and inevitable part of life. Some floods occur seasonally when winter or spring rains, coupled with melting snow, fill river basins with too much water too quickly. Torrential rains from decaying hurricanes or tropical systems can also produce river flooding.
- **Coastal Flooding** Winds generated from tropical storms and hurricanes or intense offshore low pressure systems can drive ocean water inland and cause significant flooding. Escape routes can be blocked off and blocked by high water. Coastal flooding can also be produced by sea waves called tsunamis, sometimes referred to as tidal waves. These waves are produced by earthquakes or volcanic activity.
- **Urban Flooding** As land is converted from fields or woodlands to roads or parking lots, it loses its ability to absorb rainfall. Urbanization increases runoff 2 to 6 times over what would occur on natural terrain. During periods of urban flooding, streets can become swift moving rivers, while basements can become death traps as they fill with water.
- **Flash Flooding** Several factors contribute to flash flooding. The two key elements are rainfall intensity and duration. Intensity is the rate of rainfall, and duration is how long the rain lasts. Topography, soil conditions, and ground cover also play an important role.