Goodbye James

Beginning this August, James Hutcherson will be embarking on a new mission as the sustainability coordinator here at Blue Ridge Community College. As many of you may already know, James played a big part in the establishment of EHSI and the procurement of the state contract that allows us to provide health and safety services to all 58 community colleges in North Carolina.

After joining BRCC in 1996, James began developing an organization that could meet the growing employment needs of the environmental science technology industry. In 1998 the college was awarded a $250,000 federal grant to establish the Environmental Training Center. In that same year the Environmental Science program was awarded a matching grant from benefactor and Foundation Board member Alfred G. Vollmar to furnish our three environmental science laboratories. James was then able to design the state-of-the-art labs that help the BRCC environmental science program compete with even the universities in the region.

James began networking with organizations that play key roles in the development of environmental health and safety curriculum for community colleges. Organizations like the Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center, Community College Consortium for Health and Safety Training, Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute, and Partnership for Environmental Technology Education have all played a role in developing our Continuing Education and Curriculum programs.

In 2001, James saw another opportunity within the NC Community College System and BRCC was awarded a subcontract for NCCCS environmental and safety services in the western region of the state. The following year the entire contract was awarded to BRCC to assist all 58 N.C. community colleges. James had brought Curriculum, Continuing Education, and the service contract under one umbrella called the Environmental Health and Safety Institute.

The initial contract focused on fume hood testing, hazard communication, and training. Since that time, you may have recognized how our services are enhanced each year. EHSI now provides noise monitoring, indoor air quality testing, and hands on fire extinguisher training. We now offer training via the distance learning classroom, publish our quarterly newsletter “Safety Measures” and organize annual safety conferences. And who could forget our training video production of “The Bloodborne Pathogen Zone” starring none other than our very own James Hutcherson of course.

James has built EHSI on a solid foundation, and our capabilities in assisting each college in the continuous improvement of their health and safety programs will continue to grow. We have some exciting new initiatives in the works, and we look forward to announcing the details in the next issue of “Safety Measures”. In the mean time, on behalf of Chris, Chuck, Ruth, myself and the entire community college family, thank you James for all you have done in your efforts to teach, train and find opportunities for everyone who is fortunate enough to call you a friend. Later tater....
A Current Event

Q. When is a dead battery a dead battery?
A. It's not that simple.

It used to be that when a battery-operated device no longer worked, the old batteries were either replaced or recharged. One-time use batteries ended up in the trash along with rechargeable batteries that no longer held a charge, but the burgeoning quantity of batteries discarded into landfills lead to unanticipated levels of contamination.

The source was traced back to the residual current from dead batteries.

Dead batteries caused a 2008 truck fire

In response, the Department of Transportation issued a letter on April 3rd of this year that changed the way batteries are to be prepared for shipment. The 2009 Battery Safety and Compliance Advisory Letter, a concisely crafted directive written in plain English and intended for everyone who ships batteries for recycling or disposal, can be found online at http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/regs/safety-notices.

Under these new requirements, all batteries must be packaged for transportation in a manner that prevents short circuiting and damage to the battery or its terminals. Ways to accomplish this include taping over the end of a battery/battery terminal or putting each battery in a self-sealing plastic bag, and then over-packing the batteries in a non-conductive container. The containerized batteries are to be surrounded by a cushioning material so as to prevent damage and shifting during transport. Containers must be marked to indicate their contents.

When a container is used for more than one type of battery (unsalable nickel cadmium and small, sealed lead-acid batteries, for example), it must be packed in a way that keeps each type of battery together and prevents them from mingling.

These requirements are now in full effect and are intended to improve transportation safety. Failure to comply can result in a civil penalty of up to $100,000, and criminal penalties can include a fine of up to $500,000 and ten years in prison. In fact, a civil penalty of $360,000 was recently assessed for violations resulting from the improper shipment of used batteries.

So when is a dead battery a dead battery? Under new rules from the Department of Transportation, perhaps never. Unless packaged in a manner to ensure that they are electrically insulated from each other (regardless of how dead they may appear), there is always the potential for spent batteries to pose a serious hazard due to a “current” event.

First Aid Kit Contents

While doing safety audits, EHSI sometimes gets questions regarding first aid kits. OSHA’s section on first aid is very short and leaves much open to interpretation. 29CFR1910.151 (b) states In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near
proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid. Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available. Areas on campus fluctuate broadly in their level of hazard, location, size and amount of staff present. Each campus must make its own determination of the number and placement of first aid kits. In general, office areas will require fewer kits than the vocational shops. Reviewing recent injury logs may help determine the placement of the kits.

As far as contents go, OSHA does not have a minimum requirement, but references ANSI Z308.1-2003 Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits. According to the ANSI document, a basic workplace first aid kit should include:

- At least one absorbent compress, 32 sq. in. (81.3 sq. cm.) with no side smaller than 4 in. (10 cm)
- At least sixteen adhesive bandages, 1 in. x 3 in. (2.5 cm x 7.5 cm); one roll of adhesive tape, 5 yd. (457.2 cm) total
- At least ten packets of antiseptic, 0.5g (0.14 fl oz.) applications
- At least six applications of burn treatments, 0.5 g (0.14 fl. oz.)
- Two or more pairs of medical exam gloves (latex or non-latex)
- At least four sterile pads, 3 in. x 3 in. (7.5 x 7.5 cm)
- One triangular bandage, 40 in. x 40 in. x 56 in. (101 cm x 101 cm x 142 cm)

Additional (but optional) items include:

- Four 2x2 inch bandage compresses
- Two 3x3 inch bandage compresses
- One 4x4 inch bandage compresses
- One eye patch
- One ounce of eye wash
- One chemical cold pack, 4x5 inch
- Two roller bandages, two inches wide
- One roller bandage, three inches wide
- CPR barrier device

These items are intended to be the minimum for a workplace first aid kit. Depending on the potential for injury, a more complete kit may be necessary. Don’t forget to maintain the contents of the kits. The kit must be kept stocked and checked for items that have expired dates.

OSHA recommendations do not include an automated external defibrillator (AED), but current emergency cardiac care guidelines from the American Heart Association recommend AEDs in most public places.

A good resource for first aid supplies is the American Red Cross. Their website is https://www.shopstaywell.com/. First click on “First Aid and Emergency Preparedness Kits”, then click “ERC Components & Other First Aid Supplies” under the photo. There you will find many different first aid kits configured for many different situations.

As this is being written, a new ANSI standard is being released (Z308.1-2009) and OSHA will probably adopt the updated version at some point. EHSI will pass along any changes as soon as they become available.

Flu Prevention Begins With You

By: Allen McCullough

Summer months aren’t usually considered flu season; however, the H1N1 influenza (swine flu) outbreak has now officially been heightened to global pandemic status. As it stands right now, the severity of the actual flu is limited and the death rate still remains very low (less than 1/2% in the US). North and South Carolina have both had a very limited amount of confirmed cases. As the outbreak continues to spread, it is important that we begin to change certain behaviors to minimize the chances of contracting and spreading the flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Swine Flu (continued from Page 3)

(CDC) have made several suggestions to workers outside of the medical and emergency response fields for workers to follow in order to reduce their chances of catching or spreading the flu. Although these suggestions are very basic, they have been proven to reduce your chances of catching the flu.

- **Hand washing is one of the most effective and easiest ways to keep you protected.** Wash your hands regularly with soap and water, and don’t hesitate to use alcohol based hand sanitizers as these too have been proven effective.
- **Keep your hands away from your face.** Any flu germs that may be on your hands will easily enter your body through your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Afterwards, throw it away.
- **If you are experiencing flu symptoms, it is advisable to stay home for 7 days after the onset of symptoms, or until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours, whichever is longer.**
- **As the numbers of those with flu continue to increase, pay close attention to any public health advice as it pertains to school closures and social distancing measures.**

When the numbers in your area begin to increase, it is advisable to avoid close contact with others. Try to maintain a distance of about six feet from those around you. Avoiding handshaking and elevator use could also prove to be beneficial.

For more information, refer to the OSHA publication “Preparing Workplaces for Influenza Pandemic” at [www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3327pandemic.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3327pandemic.pdf).

Source: CDC H1N1 Flu Update Page

Please join us in saying good-bye to Chris Suttles as he is leaving EHSI. Chris has accepted a position with the NC Community College System as a Regional Safety Trainer-West. Chris will keep an office here at Blue Ridge and will service community colleges in Western North Carolina. Chris has been a valuable member of our team and will be missed. **Good Luck Chris.**

EHSI Website  
[http://ehsi.blueridge.edu](http://ehsi.blueridge.edu)  
Staff Contact Information:  
Allen McCullough  828-694-1749  
jamesmc@blueridge.edu  
Chuck Arrowood  828-694-1738  
jc_arrowood@blueridge.edu  
Ruth Kidd  828-694-1767  
ruthk@blueridge.edu.