

July 2015

The shortest day of the year (21 June) has recently passed and it is still dark on campus; it's important to stay aware of your personal safety and make use of the Security Services who can accompany you to your car or bus stop. For more information see [Staying safe day and night](#).



MERS

MERS is Middle East Respiratory Syndrome caused by a Coronavirus (variant of the one that caused SARS). MERS can cause rapid onset of severe respiratory disease (symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties).

There are outbreaks in many countries but mainly East Asia, principally Republic of South Korea (ROK). There have been no cases reported in Australia.

Please follow all travel advice if travelling to areas affected by outbreaks of MERS, such as following good hygiene and avoiding contact with camels and their secretions.

For more information see the [Department of Health](#) and [International SOS](#).

Audits

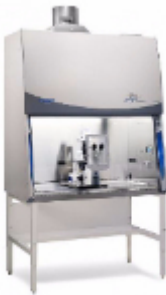
It's coming up to internal health and safety audit time again. Each year a number of schools have a one-day audit by a third party auditor. In 2015 the areas to be audited are: School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, Material Sciences, School of Medical Sciences, School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, School of Mining, Art and Design, and UNSW Canberra.

As part of our self-insurance license UNSW is also audited by WorkCover every 3 years. WorkCover will return for their regular audit in May 2016. For more information and what to expect from an audit see our [Theme of the Month-Audits](#).

The Countdown is on!

We're counting down to the City2Surf on Sunday 9 August 2015. UNSW Safety and Sustainability has organised a "UNSW Wellbeing" team. We have a running group and a walking group doing the iconic 14km route from Hyde Park to Bondi Beach. The first 50 UNSW students or staff to enter the "UNSW Wellbeing" team get a





free UNSW T-shirt. There are still places available.

To join the team send your name and bib number to ohs@unsw.edu.au and collect your free UNSW T-shirt in the colour and size of your choice from the [Arc Gift Shop](#). Mention you are running as part of the UNSW Wellbeing team!

How to enter:

1. Go to City2Surf.com.au
2. Click on "Race Centre" then click "Enter" in the drop-down tab
3. Click "Enter Now" and fill in your email and create a password
4. Enter your details. Under enter team details, tick yes.
5. Drop down list of teams "UNSW Wellbeing". Team password: Wellbeing

Visit the UNSW Health and Wellbeing City2Surf team [Facebook event page](#) for further details.

Wellbeing Survey Reminder

We launched a Wellbeing Survey during Health and Wellbeing month (June) to help us get a clearer picture of the wellbeing issues important to you. The survey will stay open for the month of July and we ask if you could please complete the [UNSW Wellbeing Survey](#) to help us prioritise the activities and services in our Wellbeing Plan.

We also launched a new wellbeing.unsw.edu.au gateway to health and wellbeing services and activities across the University. Check it out!

Biological Safety Cabinets

Equipment that causes air turbulence, such as centrifuges, must not be used in class I or II Biological Safety Cabinets (BSC) unless the combination of the BSC and the equipment running has been tested and it has been found that the air turbulence caused by the equipment does not compromise containment (see AS/NZS 2243.3:2010 - paragraph 10.3.1). The test outcome should be documented at each test date. Rather than using such equipment in a BSC, it is preferable to use equipment that has been specifically designed to contain aerosols, such as centrifuges with sealed buckets and/or sealed rotors.

Travel power adaptors

Any electrical equipment with a non-Australian power plug does not meet Australian Standards (AS 3100:2009 & AS 3112:2011). The use of travel adaptors can only be considered a temporary solution and therefore non-compliant equipment should be fitted with an Australian Standard-compliant plug if the equipment use is not temporary (such as, brought in by a short-duration visiting academic). If you will be using a travel adaptor, WorkCover advises that the travel adaptor should be tested before use. Users should also keep in mind that any damage caused through the use of foreign equipment/travel plugs could have insurance implications.

UNSW also does not support the use of double-adapters.

Heater recall

Heller and Sunair brand portable room heaters have been recalled. The heaters do not comply with the flammability requirements of the Australian Standard. Internal wiring may be loose and may make



contact with moving parts. There is a risk of fire and burns. See the [Product Safety Recall Australia](#) for full details on brands.

If you have these heaters stop using it immediately and unplug it from the socket outlet. Contact the supplier for a refund.



Lessons learnt

A UNSW laboratory worker flamed a plastic pipette tip using a bunsen burner. This resulted in the pipette tip catching fire. The tip was extinguished and put into the biological waste bin. However it was not thoroughly extinguished and it caused combustible material in the bin to catch fire. The bin was then fully extinguished before any serious damage to the bin.

Please be aware of the potential hazard of using easily-combustible items with a flame. In addition, if an item does catch fire ensure that you have planned the appropriate response to this (in your Safe Work Procedure). Be aware of your nearest floor warden and fire extinguisher.

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