

February 2024

A message from the Director of Safety, Karl Baumgartner

Welcome back to campus in 2024! As we enter the new year, our commitment to safety is stronger than ever.

Returning to work after the summer break can be challenging, with our minds often remaining in holiday mode, making us less alert to workplace risks. This helpful [infographic](#) will help you consciously shift your mindset and fully focus on the job or task at hand. A reminder also to take 2 minutes 2 Be Safe before performing a task, familiarise or refresh yourself with the potential hazards/risks in your workplace, as well as the safety standards that need to be followed.

This newsletter also brings us information about a quick guide to supporting psychosocial safety. Equip yourself with the skill and knowledge to have a supporting conversation with the people you care about and contribute to a positive and supportive work atmosphere. The bystander training will be available soon to empower all of us to become leaders in the prevention of violence and problematic behaviour.



Reportable Incidents

Certain types of incidents in the workplace need to be directly notified to the regulator (SafeWork NSW or WorkSafe ACT) under the WHS legislation. These “notifiable incidents” in the workplace include death, serious injury/illness, or dangerous incidents. More information about what is notifiable can be found here: [Incident notification information sheet | Safe Work Australia](#).

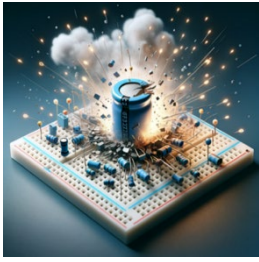
If there is an incident in your work area and you think it might be notifiable to the regulator, secure the incident scene so nobody can disturb it. Contact your supervisor and the Safety team immediately. If someone has an electric shock, send them immediately for medical review/ECG and let Estate Management know straight away so they can arrange for appropriate actions. Report the incident in Salus as soon as possible. See also the [Hazard & Incident Reporting Procedure - HS307](#).



Safety alert – Electrical Hazard Inside Ceiling Spaces

Two incidents have occurred recently where UNSW staff members have entered ceiling spaces and been exposed to risk from electrical cables, with one of them sustaining an electric shock. The EM Safety team have issued [Safety Alert - Electrical Hazards Ceiling Spaces - January 2024](#).

A reminder to all UNSW staff that they should not be accessing ceiling spaces, and this should only be done by suitably trained and qualified contractors engaged through Estate Management.



Safety Alert – Electrolytic

In November 2023, an incorrectly wired electrolytic capacitor exploded during a lab session in the School of Electrical Engineering, with a student sustaining eye injury. During the incident investigation it was found that exploding capacitors are a known hazard industry-wide, but the absence of previous injuries in the School led to the assumption that the risk was very low. The School has since replaced electrolytic capacitors with safer ceramic capacitors where practicable, and is updating their risk assessment, induction, training, and PPE guidance to explicitly cover the selection and use of electrolytic capacitors.

See [Safety Alert - Electrolytic Capacitor Explosion](#) for more information.



Safety Alert – Organic Peroxides Safety

Organic peroxides are unstable, which when dry, are extremely sensitive and explosive. When certain chemicals are exposed to oxygen over time, organic peroxides can form. This can occur under normal storage conditions, influenced by light, heat, moisture and metal contamination. When formed in solvents, they can be easily identified as crystal formation. When the crystals are allowed to grow and dry out, they become extremely hazardous.

As part of regular testing at UNSW, a bottle of acetaldehyde with tiny quantities of crystals was identified. Staff isolated the acetaldehyde in a fume hood and contacted the Central Safety Team. The Central Safety Team, in conjunction with chemistry experts, decided it was safe for expert staff to dissolve and dispose of the organic peroxides themselves.

For more information, see the [Safety Alert - Organic Peroxides Safety](#).



A Guide to Supporting Psychosocial Safety

Psychosocial hazards are potential sources of harm at work, arising from how work is organised and supervised to the work environment. Their impact is often cumulative over time and can impact both physiological and psychological functioning via the stress response.

We have developed a [quick guide](#) to supporting psychosocial safety, with scenarios study and support resources. Equip yourself with the skills and knowledge to have a supportive conversation when you notice a team member or colleague is struggling, or a staff member discloses something to you. Spotting the signs of stress or poor mental health at an early stage means it can be addressed before it impacts the individual's health and safety.

For more information, visit: [Safety - Managing Psychosocial Risk](#).



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Bystander Workshops

Towards the end of 2023, 29 staff from UNSW and UTS participated in the MATE bystander train-the-trainer course, a transformative initiative by Griffith University, Queensland.

MATE is an impactful education and intervention program, empowering all of us to become leaders in the prevention of violence and problematic behaviour.

16 UNSW staff have completed the training and are now equipped to conduct workshops focusing on the prevention of violence against women and applying the bystander approach to other areas such as racism and discrimination, bullying and harassment and creating positive workplaces. These sessions are set to be rolled out in 2024 and we encourage everyone to be part of the conversation.

The collaborative experience with UTS staff and diverse individuals from different UNSW divisions and faculties was fantastic, and we are excited to announce that plans are underway for a second train-the-trainer course this year.

To get involved, please reach out to Semra Tastan & Emma Mannering via gvpredvention@unsw.edu.au

For more information on MATE, visit: <https://matebystander.edu.au/>.



Lab Gown

Laboratory Gown Shortage in Biocontainment Facilities

A shortage of laboratory gowns has been noted in several areas on campus in recent times and a hazard report has been entered into Salus by one area. UNSW has engaged Lawrence Dry Cleaners for the supply and laundering of our laboratory gowns, with the contract scheduled to begin in April 2024 (date still to be determined as gowns are still being manufactured).

If you are experiencing a shortage of the re-usable gowns in the meantime, you can use disposable gowns, which are an acceptable alternative. Precinct Services are able to assist local areas with a stocktake to try to identify the cause of shortages.

For further information contact [Safety team](#).



Safeguard UNSW Data by Reporting Data Breaches

UNSW has published a new [Data Breach Policy and Procedure](#) aimed at identifying, assessing, managing and responding to a breach of data held by UNSW.

All staff, students, contractors, consultants, third party vendors and agents at UNSW are responsible for reporting suspected or confirmed data breaches.

Common examples of data breaches can include loss or theft of a device containing UNSW data, unauthorised access of UNSW systems, loss of user login details or any loss of data through a cyber-attack.



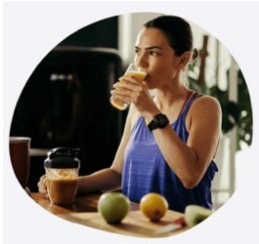
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As soon as you suspect or confirm that a breach has occurred, report it immediately to UNSW IT at itservicecentre@unsw.edu.au.

Be vigilant! If you suspect a data breach has occurred, please err on the side of caution, and immediately report it by providing as much information as you can.

More information:

- Visit the [SharePoint site](#)
- Read the [Data Breach Policy and Procedure](#)



Nutrition and Heart Health - TELUS Health Webinar

Join TELUS Health for a free webinar, Nutrition and Heart Health, on Thursday 22 February 2024. Whether you're looking to prevent heart issues or enhance your cardiovascular health, this webinar provides valuable insights and empowers you with the knowledge to make informed dietary and lifestyle decisions.

What you can expect:

1. Hear the latest evidence on nutrition recommendations for heart health
2. Explore the impact of nutrition on two major cardiovascular risk factors – high blood pressure and high cholesterol
3. Gain practical tips to optimise your diet for a healthier heart and for managing blood pressure and cholesterol levels through nutrition

The webinar will be held on Thursday 22 February from 1pm-1:30pm. [Please click here to register](#)



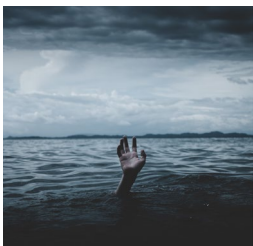
'2 Be Safe' Notepad

There are an extensive variety of risks to personal safety, property damage, and environmental harm at UNSW.

As part of our commitment to a safer UNSW, we are introducing a self-risk assessment tool known as a '2 Be Safe' notepad. This tool will encourage staff and students to take 2 minutes and consider all hazards or risks prior to commencing a work task.

Ongoing engagement and use of the '2 Be Safe' checklist will instil proactive safety assessment behaviours and increase personal awareness, which ultimately translate to a safer environment for all.

Keep an eye out for our notepads coming to your local areas!



Recognise & Respond - Suicide Prevention

UNSW Health is pleased to partner with Black Dog Institute to offer subsidised Suicide Prevention training to UNSW students and staff.

Recognise and Respond: Suicide Prevention for Everyday Life aims to assist in reducing and preventing suicide in Australia by equipping people with the skills to intervene with someone who is contemplating suicide.



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The self-directed e-learning module is comprised of four main learning components:

- recognising the signs of suicide
- having a conversation with and supporting the person
- providing help to the person
- self-care

To register for the course, [please click here](#). You will need this enrolment key: W7cXVGa6EjBS5WYHUmh3



UNSW Asbestos Registers

EM Safety are issuing a Safety Advice for contractors to make you aware that the UNSW Asbestos Register is now available for you to access via the UNSW Estate Management and UNSW Safety Webpage. The register is searchable by building code and building name. The register is a live document and will be updated regularly to reflect future changes.

Actions for contractors:

Please follow the attached links below to access the asbestos register.

- [Register page](#)
- [Contractor landing page](#)
- [Asbestos hazard page on Safety website](#)

If you would like a full building report including clearance certification, please contact Estate Management - Brooke Smith at brooke.smith1@unsw.edu.au



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