



LSUA
LSU of ALEXANDRIA

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1 2024

CROSSING RAILROADS SAFELY

Every three hours, a person or vehicle in the United States is hit by a train, often with fatal results.

SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Approach the tracks cautiously, and always expect a train – even on rarely used tracks. Since most trains do not travel on a regular schedule, be cautious at all times.
- Turn on your four-way flashers to warn other drivers that you are slowing down.
- Then, turn off any fans and music, and roll down your windows as you come to the track. Try to come to a complete stop between 15 and 50 feet away.
- Cross tracks only at designated crossings. Never drive around lowered gates. This is illegal and deadly.
- Once you are stopped, listen for a train and look both ways down the track. Be mindful that your mirrors or A-pillars maybe blocking your view so adjust your body to see around them. Listen for any signs of a train even if you cannot see or hear anything, look again and proceed.
- If you are crossing the tracks and you see a train coming, keep going. Do not panic and stop on the tracks. Remember, the train is at least three feet wider than the tracks on each side.
- If you see a train, understand that it is closer and moving faster than you think. Always wait for it to pass before proceeding across the tracks.

WHAT IF YOU GET STUCK?

If your vehicle stalls or gets stuck on the tracks, do the following:

- Get yourself and any other passengers out of the vehicle immediately.
- If a train is coming, get out immediately and move quickly toward the oncoming train and away from the tracks at a 45- degree angle. This is to protect you if the train does hit your vehicle. The debris will fly in the same direction as the train's path.
- If you are at a crossing with multiple tracks, watch in either direction for another train approaching.
- Once you are far enough away from the tracks, call for help and provide your location and the crossing number if it is posted. Be aware that trains cannot stop quickly. A train traveling at 60 mph will need at least one mile to stop, so even if the train driver sees you, it's not likely that they will be able to stop in time.





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RETURN TO WORK POLICY - PS 277

Purpose: Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA) provides workers' compensation benefits to its faculty and staff in accordance with state law. This coverage includes the University's modified duty program designed to encourage employees who have been released to perform work with limitations to return to work. Please familiarize yourself with this policy which was updated recently.

All LSUA policy statements can be found online at <https://www.lsua.edu/chancellor/policies>

ANNUAL NOTICE TO LSUA EMPLOYEES

If you smell gas, call Facility Services at 318-473-6475 or University Police at 318-473-6427. LSU at Alexandria owns and operates a natural gas distribution system. The purpose of the gas system is to provide a reliable and safe economical source of energy for heating buildings adjacent to the underground gas pipelines. The pipeline system has the capacity to reliably deliver natural gas to the customer.

The hazards of natural gas are that it is odorless, tasteless, and lighter than air, and can ignite and/or explode with a tremendous force when mixed with the right amount of air. Prevention measures taken include adding odorant to the gas to give it that distinctive smell, similar to rotten eggs, to warn us of its presence, testing the odorant level each

calendar quarter, and performing annual gas leaking surveys.

Anyone who may smell this odor or notice any unusual conditions on or near gas mains, vents, service lines, meter sets, or especially inside a building should immediately call the Facility Services Department at **318-473-6475** or University Police at **318-473-6427**.

If you smell a strong gas odor inside a building, ask everyone in the building to leave. Do not operate any switches or use the phone. Move a safe distance away upwind of the gas smell and then, when you are safe, call the Facility Services Department. With any gas leak protect life first then notify the Facility Services Department.

State and Federal laws require excavators to notify the state LA One-Call Center 48 hours before digging. The LA One-Call number is 811 or 1-800-272-3020. They will notify LSUA Facility Services. Remember, you must call 48 hours before digging.



This information is provided as a public awareness notice.



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HAZARD COMMUNICATION

The Louisiana Office of Risk Management recently directed all state organizations maintaining hazardous materials to develop and implement a Hazard Communication and Chemical Safety Program. At LSUA, this program is coordinated by the Safety & Risk Manager. The program requires departments on campus who use or store hazardous materials to maintain an inventory, maintain SDS (Safety Data Sheets), conduct training for employees who handle hazardous materials, label and properly store HAZMAT inventories, and develop procedures for spills or other HAZMAT emergencies.

ORM defines a substance as “hazardous” if it is classified as either a “physical” hazard (flammables, explosives etc.) or a “health” hazard (carcinogens or mutagens). Physical hazards such as oxygen tanks, fuel, and paint thinner are easier to identify than health hazards which include substances such as lab chemicals and cleaning supplies. At LSUA, hazardous materials are primarily located within the Department of Facility Services and Science laboratories.

In addition to providing the chemical composition of a substance, product labels provide detailed information concerning proper use, storage, and hazards of a hazardous material. Always read the label prior to use and never go “off label” by mixing or using something in a manner inconsistent with label instructions. The label will also dictate what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn when using the substance. If you are working in an area where hazardous chemicals are present, you should check to ensure that current SDS are available.



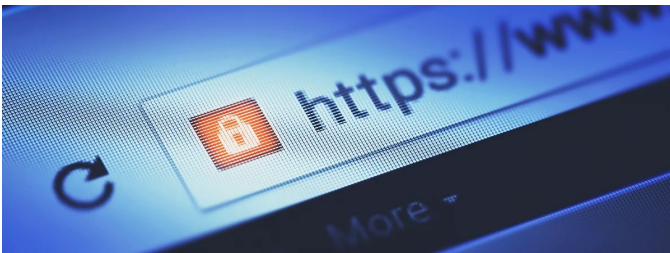
SDS for Hazardous Materials (if applicable):

- All containers should be labeled with the name of the contents
- Review the safety data sheets for the materials used by the employees
- To ensure understanding, employees should be knowledgeable in the signs and symptoms of exposure to the hazardous material
- The employee should know how to access all safety data sheets
- The employee should be aware of the new labeling system for chemicals

For additional information on the new SDS, please visit:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.html>

LSUA SAFETY WEBSITE



<https://www.lsua.edu/fas/safety>

This website contains various information on campus safety including our Safety Manual, General Safety Rules, Active Shooter information, and Travel Safety.

SAFETY FIRST



LSUA GENERAL SAFETY RULES

Annually, LSUA is required to conduct training on the General Safety Rules listed below. They are also located in the Safety Manual on the website.

- No smoking on campus.
- Horseplay and fighting will not be tolerated in the work place.
- Before beginning work, notify your supervisor of any permanent or temporary impairment that may reduce your ability to perform in a safe manner.
- Operate equipment only if you are trained and authorized.
- Immediately report any recognized potentially unsafe condition or act to your supervisor.
- Immediately report accidents, near misses, and property damage to a supervisor regardless of the severity.
- Report any smoke, fire, or unusual odors to your supervisor immediately.
- Use proper lifting techniques. For objects exceeding 50 pounds in weight, the immediate supervisor shall determine specific methods for safe lifting.
- If your work creates a potential slip or trip hazard, correct the hazard immediately. Special attention should be paid to electrical cords that stretch across walkways.
- Fasten restraint belts before starting any motor vehicle.
- Obey all driver safety instructions.
- Comply with all traffic signs, signals, markers, and persons designated to direct traffic.
- Adhere to departmental rules regarding first aid, evacuation routes, and fire department notification.
- Adhere to departmental rules and procedures specific to departmental operations.
- Assist and cooperate with all safety investigations and inspections and assist in implementing safety procedures as requested.
- Adhere to any state, local, or campus policies on infection control procedures.