

## ISSUE #3 – SPRING 1 2022

FEBRUARY 2022

## TORNADO ON CAMPUS!

Last spring, our campus was hit by a very dangerous tornado. Both LSUA and our neighbor, the LSU Ag Center, sustained severe damage to many buildings. Fortunately, no one was injured from this weather event, however things could have been much worse!

Unlike hurricanes, a tornado can form suddenly, move very fast, and are quite unpredictable. While damage from a tornado is not generally widespread (as in a hurricane), they are intense and deadly at the point of impact.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN A TORNADO HITS...

- Move to the ground floor, center hall of the building; close doors as you leave
- Stay away from glass windows and doors with glass panes
- Do not use the elevator
- Do not leave the building or attempt to drive

## LSUA SAFETY WEBSITE

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

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

## 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>



IS THERE AN ACCIDENT LURKING HERE?



**LSUA**  
LSU of ALEXANDRIA

# SAFETY NEWSLETTER

## 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 purposes to the 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. 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 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. To obtain any information concerning the pipeline location call LSU at Alexandria's Facility Services Department. If any excavation is planned

you must notify the LA One-Call Center which will notify the Facility Services Department to locate any gas lines. Call 48 hours before digging.

Personnel should report gas leaks or other gas related information to the Facility Services Department at 318-473-6475 or University Police at 318-473-6427. The LA One-Call number is 811 or 1-800-272-3020. This information is provided as a public awareness notice.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

At the start of the Spring 2022 semester, cases and hospitalizations of COVID 19 across the state and country were rising to record setting levels. At this time, we are seeing a reduction in cases across Louisiana and here on campus. Beginning February 14, masks were no longer required across most areas of campus. However, faculty has the discretion to require it in their individual classrooms if they chose to do so.

Additionally, we continue to encourage that if you develop any COVID-like symptoms, to get tested as soon as possible and delay coming to campus until testing is done. Free testing is still available daily at the LSUA Health Center in Coughlin Hall. An appointment is recommended and can be made by calling (318) 427-0110.

We continue to strongly encourage everyone in our community to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and get boosted if you are eligible.

Please visit <https://www.lsua.edu/coronavirus> for additional information on LSUA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



## 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 assistance in reading the current SDS, please see:

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





## TIPS FOR ATTACKS IN PUBLIC AREAS

(PART TWO)

Included within the last Quarterly Safety Article were tips for potential attacks or threats in the workplace. Those tips included following these basic steps if a situation occurs:

1. **Run** to Safety
2. **Cover** and **Hide**
3. **Defend, Disrupt, Fight**
4. **Help the Wounded**



The **Options for Consideration** video demonstrates possible actions that individuals can take if confronted with an active shooter scenario. This instructive video reviews the choices of running, hiding, or as an option of last resort, fighting the shooter. The video also shows how to assist authorities once law enforcement arrives. **Please visit the LSUA Campus Safety webpage to view this very informative video from DHS:**

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

## LSUA GENERAL SAFETY RULES

Each year, LSUA is required to conduct training on the General Safety Rules which are listed below. They are also located in the Safety Manual on the LSUA website. Please read our rules and direct any questions to me at [cgauthier@lsua.edu](mailto:cgauthier@lsua.edu).

1. No smoking on campus.
2. Horseplay and fighting will not be tolerated in the work place.
3. Before beginning work, notify your supervisor of any permanent or temporary impairment that may reduce your ability to perform in a safe manner.
4. Operate equipment only if you are trained and authorized.
5. Immediately report any recognized potentially unsafe condition or act to your supervisor.
6. Immediately report accidents, near misses, and property damage to a supervisor regardless of the severity.
7. Report any smoke, fire, or unusual odors to your supervisor immediately.
8. Use proper lifting techniques. For objects exceeding 50 pounds in weight, the immediate supervisor shall determine specific methods for safe lifting.
9. 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.
10. Fasten restraint belts before starting any motor vehicle.
11. Obey all driver safety instructions.
12. Comply with all traffic signs, signals, markers, and persons designated to direct traffic.
13. Adhere to departmental rules regarding first aid, evacuation routes, and fire department notification.
14. Adhere to departmental rules and procedures specific to departmental operations.
15. Assist and cooperate with all safety investigations and inspections and assist in implementing safety procedures as requested.
16. Adhere to any state, local, or campus policies on infection control procedures.