

SPRING 1 2023

LIGHTNING SAFETY

INDOOR TIPS

Even though your home is a safe shelter during a lightning storm, you might still be at risk. About one-third of lightning-strike injuries occur indoors. Here are some tips to keep safe and reduce your risk of being struck by lightning while indoors.

- **Avoid water.**
Do NOT bathe, shower, wash dishes, or have any other contact with water during a thunderstorm because lightning can travel through a building's plumbing. The risk of lightning travelling through plumbing might be less with plastic pipes than with metal pipes. However, it is best to avoid any contact with plumbing and running water during a lightning storm.
- **Don't touch electronic equipment.**
Do NOT use anything connected to an electrical outlet, such as computers, laptops, game systems, washers, dryers, or stoves. Lightning can travel through electrical systems, radio and television reception systems, and any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.
- **Avoid windows, doors, porches, and concrete.**
Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches. Do NOT lie on concrete floors or lean on concrete walls during a thunderstorm. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.



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>

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.

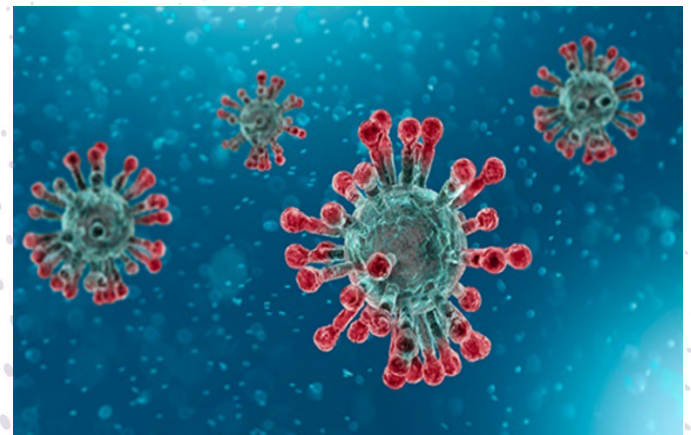
This information is provided as a public awareness notice.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Although cases and hospitalizations of COVID 19 across the state and country are leveling off, we continue to encourage getting tested if you develop COVID-like symptoms before coming to campus. 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 strongly encourage everyone in our community to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and get boosted if you are at high risk.

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



CAN YOU SPOT ANYTHING UNSAFE?

CLUES ON THE NEXT PAGE.



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 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.

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.

ANSWERS



1. Cords running across an office can be a tripping hazard and should be avoided.
2. Materials such as boxes should be stacked no higher than 18 inches beneath a sprinkler to ensure the sprinkler's effectiveness.
3. Ensure space heaters are approved for commercial use, and never leave them unattended or near any combustible materials.
4. Boxes should not block an exit path.
5. Never leave file cabinets open and unattended; someone could trip over or bump into them.
6. Paper cutters should be guarded and closed when not in use.
7. All food should be properly stored; studies show 400 times more germs are present on a desktop than on the average toilet seat.
8. Keyboards should be adjustable to improve comfort and reduce strain.
9. Electrical hazards are one of the leading causes of office fires; never overload an outlet.
10. Keep papers clear from devices such as hot plates, and never leave them on while out of the office.
11. Coffee cups should have a lid to reduce spills.
12. Chairs should be ergonomic and include arm rests and an adjustable back.