

Stanford EH&S Department Receives Highest Award for Health & Safety Program Management Environmental Health and Safety

The Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) awarded Stanford's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) its Award of Honor, signifying the highest level of achievement in CSHEMA's awards program.

Each year CSHEMA challenges institutes of higher education to submit an entry in their awards competition in a variety of categories ranging



Larry Gibbs, Associate Vice Provost for Environmental Health & Safety, receives the award from Robin Elliott, CSHEMA Awards Committee Chair

from "Solutions at Work" recognizing creative or innovative programs on campus to "Newsletter Competition." Stanford has previously received awards for "EH&S Web Homepage" design and under the "Unique and Innovative Award" program.

In 2009, Stanford submitted an entry in the "Complete Environmental Health & Safety Award" program. The program is intended to motivate entrants to strive for excellence in designing and implementing their own safety programs and to incorporate novel and/or original efforts while complying with standardized regulations. Applications receive one of four award levels ranging from the lowest level, "The President's Citation Letter", to the highest

level, the "Award of Honor" with several intermediate levels of award in between.

Stanford's EH&S department is the principal health and safety office at Stanford University. It provides and coordinates programs and services supporting the safety, health, and environmental well-being of the university community.

For the university, it provides support in areas including regulatory compliance, occupational safety and health, fire prevention and control, emergency preparedness, ergonomics, environmental programs, chemical and chemical waste management, radiation safety, training and communication. In 2008, EH&S opened an Occupational Health Center, providing work-related medical services to University staff and faculty.

Additionally, through contractual agreements with Stanford Hospital, Lucille Packard Children's Hospital, and the Palo Alto Veteran's Affairs Medical Center, Stanford EH&S provides support services in health physics/radiation safety, biosafety and hazardous waste management.

The department is headed by Associate Vice Provost Larry Gibbs, and reports to Vice Provost and Dean of Research Ann Arvin, M.D.

Gibbs writes:

"This award is a testament to the completeness of Stanford's overall EH&S program, and also a recognition of the work and dedication that each employee brings to the program through day-to-day efforts and activities. Each EH&S group plays an important role, along with our safety partners throughout the University, in helping to ensure a safe and supportive environment for continuation of the University mission of teaching and research. It is through the sustained efforts of each and every employee that our program is able to receive such professional accolades."

Mr. Gibbs received the award on behalf of Stanford University at the CSHEMA Annual conference in July.

Please visit the EH&S homepage at <http://ehs.stanford>.

edu for more information about the Department of Environmental Health & Safety. For more information about CSHEMA, visit the CSHEMA website at <http://www.cshema.org>.

Interview with Dr. Patrick O'Callahan, Medical Director, SU Occupational Health Center

SU Occupational Health Center



Dr. Patrick O'Callahan, Medical Director, SU Occupational Health Center

The SU Occupational Health Center was established in 2007. Dr. Patrick O'Callahan joined as Medical Director in December, 2008.

News & Notes: Tell a little about the SU Occupational Health Center, and the services you offer.

Dr. O'Callahan: There are three different occupational health centers serving the Stanford community. We here in EH&S serve the university faculty and staff. SLAC has an occupational health center for SLAC employees, and the hospital has an occupational health center that serves hospital employees.

What do we do? We're a full-scale occupational health center; we perform the full spectrum of medical surveillance, preventative services, vaccinations, and injury care for both employees and staff who incur injury or illness at work.

News & Notes: How do people make appointments?

Dr. O'Callahan: In the case of medical surveillance, we generally alert participants when it's time for their periodic evaluation. The employees then call SUOHC and speak with Angela, who is our Administrative Assistant, and schedule an appointment with either myself or Jamie, who is a Registered Nurse. If the employee has had an injury or a work-related illness, generally they notify their manager or HR about the occurrence, and they're referred here. Appointments are then made on an as needed basis. We prefer people call before coming over, unless the injury is urgent. Even when an injury or illness is urgent, it's nice to get a heads up a few minutes before to say "we're coming over".

News & Notes: When would someone come here as opposed to going to an emergency room?

Dr. O'Callahan: For anything you'd think about calling 911, those people should go directly to the hospital emergency room for immediate evaluation. Anybody else would come here.

In other words, for an injury or an illness that's life-threatening; if someone has a severe cut, obvious fracture, severe pain; they're having difficulty breathing, or they've had an exposure that has caused a severe burn, then calling 911 and going directly to the hospital would make sense. Obviously we're only open during the work week from eight to five, and there are employees who are working a second shift overnight. If they have an injury, they would go to the hospital if it's an urgent matter, or if not, then they would wait for the next day to see us.

News & Notes: So employees and faculty could drop in here without an appointment, but you'd rather them call first.

Dr. O'Callahan: Yes, we're getting to the point where our schedule is pretty full. We try and accommodate same day needs if possible, but unfortunately can't always accommodate everyone. On one particular day we might have four people who have a sudden injury and need to be evaluated immediately. So those people we need to see, and they walk in and we do what needs to be done. Others with less severe issues may be asked to come in a different day, or would have a long wait.

News & Notes: What is medical surveillance?

Dr. O'Callahan: Here's a simple instance: Federally mandated evaluations for workers who are exposed to significant noise in the line of their job, on a daily basis. If they meet a certain threshold indicating they are exposed to potential damaging levels of noise for a long enough periods, then they're mandated to be put into a hearing conservation program where we monitor their hearing on an annual basis. This way we can pick up any hearing loss early. Those same people have hearing protection to protect their hearing while in the noisy area. This is a way to monitor that they're wearing their hearing protection adequately and they're not being excessively exposed. If they are developing early signs of hearing loss, we can address that; correct that cycle very early on. So that's one example. There are many other work tasks that we do this periodic surveillance for. If a job-related activity puts an employee at risk, we want to monitor them periodically to make sure they're not being exposed or having adverse effects from their work environment.

News & Notes: What cases are you seeing so far?

Dr. O'Callahan: Pretty much everything from biological or chemical exposures, to psychological stress in the work environment, and everything in between. Some examples include needle sticks, minor lacerations, foreign bodies in the eyes, broken bones, bruises, strains, sprains. We commonly see repetitive injuries or illnesses (things from repetitive tasks people do during the day, such as keyboard or mouse use).

News & Notes: What facilities do you have here?

Dr. O'Callahan: We are like a basic primary care doctor's office, but with some extra equipment for certain medical surveillance. We have two examination rooms, to evaluate, examine and treat our patients. There is a hearing booth for the hearing monitoring; special vision equipment; a mini-lab where we draw blood and process the blood initially before it goes off to the Stanford lab. So if people require periodic blood draws, we can do that here.

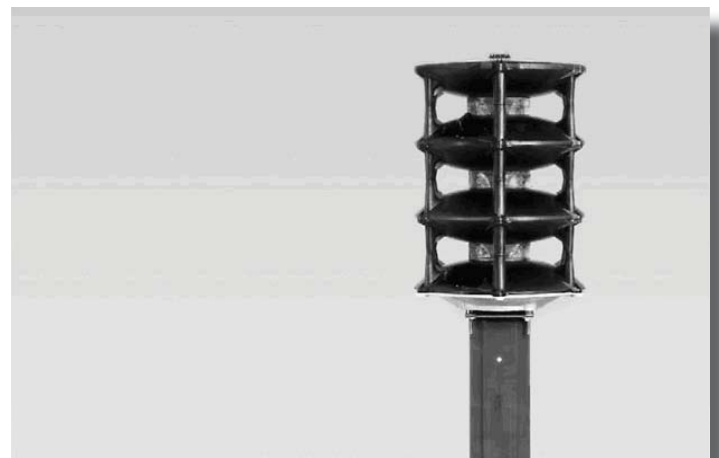
News & Notes: Anything you'd like to say to the Stanford safety community, which is the primary recipient of this newsletter?

Dr. O'Callahan: We're really dependant on the safety community's feedback: how we're doing, how we're meeting the needs of Stanford University. We really

need to know trends that are being seen, or any deficiencies on our part, or other needs. So we really want to hear that feedback.

Stanford Installs New Outdoor Warning System Emergency Preparedness

Stanford university recently completed the installation of an outdoor warning system to ament the university AlertSU mass notification program. The new outdoor warning system consists of seven sirens that are distributed across the campus. After consulting with Stanford residential leaseholders and Santa Clara County representatives over placement, sirens were mounted on 50-foot-tall poles along Arboretum Road, in Frenchman's Park near Gerona Road and on Stanford Avenue across from Nixon School. The other four sirens are atop the Lyman Graduate Residences, the Beckman Center, Meyer Library and the Hoskins mid-rise in Escondido Village. The high-intensity sound created by the sirens can travel up to a half-mile.



An AlertSU siren

The AlertSU Outdoor Warning System will be used to notify the community of an immediate life safety situation. Examples of situations in which the system might be employed include:

- An armed and dangerous person on campus
- A major chemical or biological hazard with potential to affect a large segment of the campus
- Any situation with the potential to cause significant harm to the campus community

When the system is activated, it will produce a warning tone followed by voice instructions directing you to take specific action to protect your safety. When emergency officials determine that the threat is over, an “all clear” tone and message will be activated, indicating that it is safe to resume normal activities. The noise level during activation will be at about 90 decibels near the siren source and about 70 decibels at the perimeter of campus, which is comparable to the volume of a vacuum cleaner. People inside buildings should not expect to always hear the siren system when activated. It is intended for outdoor warning only. When individuals hear the system, local response procedures should be activated to ensure that all individuals in the area are aware that an event is underway.

If you hear the system outside of official testing, immediately stop and listen for additional instructions. Be prepared to act either by evacuating or seeking shelter in a secure location. After you are in a safer location, seek additional information by accessing one of the university emergency broadcast systems:

- Emergency hotline 725-5555
- Emergency website <http://emergency.stanford.edu>
- KZSU 90.1 FM

For more information about the system and the AlertSU mass notification program, visit the program website at <http://alertsu.stanford.edu>.

New Safety Videos Available Online EH&S Training and Communications

Fire Extinguisher Use and Inspection: EHS-3850-WEB



This is a new online video that can be accessed through STARS. It covers fire extinguisher use, classification according to fire type, and inspection to

ensure readiness. This video is relevant to all students, faculty and staff, and may be viewed at any time. 14 minutes.

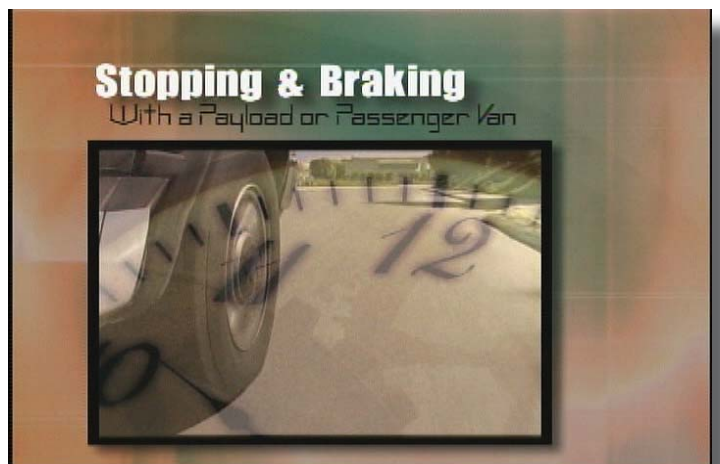
The Fifth Guy



Still from “The Fifth Guy”

Very funny and relevant video on not sharing your germs. Viewable by all with a SUNet ID at https://ehsappprd1.stanford.edu/safetyvideos/short_vids.html. Produced by the Florida Dept. of Health.

Trucks, Vans and Other Delivery Vehicles



Still from “Trucks, Vans and Other Delivery Vehicles”

Safety tips and demonstrations for those who drive Trucks, Vans and Other Delivery Vehicles. Anyone with a SUNet ID can access this video at http://ehs.stanford.edu/training/Flash_Files/TrucksVans.html. 16 minutes.

Workstation Ergonomics Course Updated
EHS-3400-WEB, available through STARS, has been updated for easy launching and completion.

EH&S News and Notes is published by the EH&S Training and Communications Group. Send feedback to rbedgar@stanford.edu.