



# Safe Passages



UNC  
ENVIRONMENT,  
HEALTH & SAFETY

SPRING 2012

Emergency Coordinator Newsletter



## PUBLIC SAFETY ENHANCED TRAINING

Megan Howard is the new Community Services Sergeant for The UNC Department of Public Safety. One of her primary functions for the department is to act as a liaison between the Carolina Community and The Department of Public Safety. This includes the coordination and scheduling of educational safety programming and crime prevention programs conducted in the Carolina Community.

Often times Public Safety Officers are only called upon when a situation needs to be defused, a crime has occurred or an emergency response has occurred. Megan loves training opportunities because it gives her a chance to meet people under the best situations, instead of during the stressful times when they are dealing with an emergency.

For various reasons individuals are often unsure if they should or even contact law enforcement for something they have seen.



Ask Megan and she will quickly tell you, "I can tell you your call could help prevent or stop a criminal act.

This is why we as a department take pride

in the educational programming we provide the Carolina Community."

The Department of Public Safety offers two video programs and an information program as part of the Violence Awareness Program. Other crime prevention and safety programs are available by request.

"See Something, Say Something" is a program geared to educating individuals on what a suspicious condition is and why it is important to report anything or anyone that seems out of place.

"Shots Fired – When Lightning Strikes – Guidance for Surviving an Active Shooter" is produced by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety. This program provides training that empowers people with the knowledge and strategies for how to react in the case of a violent event involving an active shooter in the workplace or any-



where

that you may be in the Carolina Community.

"Silent Storm – Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking—The impact on the Workplace" is also produced by the Center for Personal Protection and Safety.

The ultimate goal of this program is three pronged: Awareness, Recognition and Response. The program provides the information not only for victims of interpersonal relationship violence but also for those individuals they work with on a day to day basis. In many cases the victims and their co-workers are affected by the actions of an individual offender.

The Department of Public Safety would like to encourage each individual to participate in all their Violence Awareness Programs as well as encourage co-workers to participate. Their ultimate goal is to educate the Carolina Community on the importance of situational awareness and prevention. If you would like to schedule a program, please contact Sgt. Megan Howard, at 966.3230 or [howardmd@unc.edu](mailto:howardmd@unc.edu). She looks forward to meeting everyone in the best of situations.

### BACK TO THE DAILY GRIND

- *Know your environment.* The University and the neighboring community are not isolated from crime.
- *You can prevent criminal opportunity.* Take responsibility for your own protection and that of your neighbors.
- *Trust your instincts;* when you feel something is not right, *Dial 911* immediately!
- *Be aware and alert of your surroundings* and to activities around you.
- *Never leave valuables unattended.*
- *Lock your door,* even if just going down the hall or down the street.

# ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Quick – name 5 things that will pollute campus streams. OK, I'll give you a few to get started: car oil, garbage, detergent from power washing, dirt, and leaves. Can you think of any others? Yes, those are also correct: paint, water from mop buckets, liquids leaking from dumpsters, landscaping mulch, pet waste, leftover soda, kitchen grease, grass clippings, fertilizer, antifreeze. But, you ask, how do these things get into the creeks in the first place? Well, let's start at the beginning.

The UNC campus is filled with a network of storm drains. You may have never noticed these, but they are located along curbs, in parking lots, and sometimes in the middle of grassy lawns all around campus. Storm drains are open grates, usually square or rectangular, or they are openings along curbs with or without open grates. There are actually several thousand storm drains on campus alone, not to mention all of the drains off campus around Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Rainwater, and anything else that ends up in the storm drains, goes through a series of pipes. Eventually these pipes join and all of the water discharges into one of several creeks around the borders of the UNC campus.

Storm water is rainwater that runs off of roofs, roads, and lawns. So what happens to this rainwater? Well, as it runs across these surfaces and travels downhill, it collects pollution such as trash, animal droppings, and automobile fluids, as well as the other things we've already mentioned. This contaminated water goes into the storm drains and continues, untreated, on to creeks, which join with rivers, and eventually the water from our campus ends up in Jordan Lake.

So think about this. I am often asked the question: why does it matter if I just pour a little bit of paint or soda or biodegradable/natural soap down the drain outside? Well, think about the aquatic life in those streams a few hundred yards down from those drains. If the substance you are putting into the drain isn't something you'd like to eat, drink, swim in, or put into your eyes, do you want to subject fish or deer or even the neighborhood pet to those materials?

Also, UNC has an NPDES permit that *limits* what can go into the storm drains around campus. NPDES stands for "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System", and is a regulatory program

developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency to reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States. Basically, we are only permitted to allow uncontaminated water into the storm drains and creeks around campus. Anything else that ends up in the water is called an "illicit discharge", and may cause us to receive a fine from the NC Department of Natural Resources.

So, just remember, next time you are walking on a trail next to campus and see the beautiful, clear water, this is a result of a community of people who are concerned about protecting our environment. And if you see someone who may be tempted to use a storm drain to pour out unwanted materials, don't hesitate to use the opportunity to educate that person about how everyone can make a difference.



For more information on the EHS Storm water Program, contact Janet Clarke at 962-5507, or visit the [Storm water website](#).



Oil leak from a mobile generator.



Leak from a trash compactor.



Construction dirt running into storm

# HIDDEN DANGERS OF CONFINED SPACES

The UNC campus contains thousands of confined spaces that we walk by every day without taking notice. What are confined spaces? Examples of confined spaces include underground vaults, manholes, air-handler units, access points to service tunnels, crawl spaces, and tanks. OSHA defines confined spaces as spaces that are large enough that people can enter, have limited or restricted entry or exit, and are not designed for continuous occupancy.



So what's the big deal about confined spaces? Confined spaces may appear to be harmless from the outside, but may harbor hidden dangers such as toxic gases, oxygen deficiency, and mechanical and electrical hazards. 1.5 million workers enter confined spaces annually and are at risk for injury when certain precautions are not taken prior to entry. For this reason, OSHA requires that employees are informed about confined spaces and prohibits untrained employees from entering confined spaces. OSHA also requires that a permit be completed for entries into confined spaces that contain or have the potential to contain hazards. Contact EHS-Industrial Hygiene, Kim Haley, (843-2735), or if you have questions about confined spaces in your area. You can also check out the confined spaces website [here](#).



## RESIDENCE HALLS GET FREE TOUCH SCREEN TV'S

Giving stuff away FREE is always a good way to get college student to participate in programs. Due to the diligent efforts of Chris Williams with ResNET (residential networking education and technology), digital touch screens are being installed in many residence halls throughout the campus.



The touch screens will contain important information about inclement weather, bus schedules, and campus events. Also, the touch screens will also be used for fire safety training. When a student takes the time to do the training, he or she will be entered into a drawing to win a prize.

The touch screens are funded by a grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) awarded to Mr. Williams, who as the Director of the ResNET Program, collaborated with EHS Fire Safety before writing the grant.

But, Mr. Williams hopes that every screen will pay for itself in lives saved. A single false fire alarm costs approximately \$1,000. Each of the television

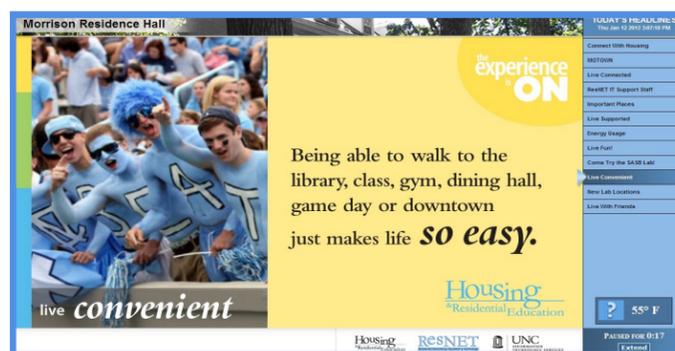
screens costs about \$3,000, including installation.

Therefore, if each screen is able to prevent three fire alarms, his goal of promoting safety will have paid off. Plus, the students will be more knowledgeable about safety.

Five short videos will be presented on the

**Touch screens provide *valuable* information**

screens. These were produced by UNC EHS and Todd Tinkham, a local film producer-<http://ehs.unc.edu/podcast/>. Each of the clips show a different way that fire alarms are set off accidentally. Some of the most common false alarms are steam from showers, cooking smoke from unattended cooking, and microwave smoke. Contact Chris at [Chris\\_williams@unc.edu](mailto:Chris_williams@unc.edu).



## SAFE PASSAGES

A Publication for UNC Emergency Coordinators  
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR TRAINING

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