



SAFETY FIRST UNC—FIRE SAFETY



THE UNIVERSITY
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at CHAPEL HILL

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Egress* Safety Coming to a Hallway Near You by Conor Keeney

Did you know that the University has a policy prohibiting the storage of items in hallways? In order to comply with federal regulations that state "Exit routes must be free and unobstructed. No materials or equipment may be placed, either permanently or temporarily, within the exit route" the University prohibits the storage of items in hallways.

However, walking through many buildings on campus it becomes obvious that hallways are being used for storage. It is common to see microwaves, refrigerators, file cabinets, wooden pallets, and laboratory equipment among other things stored in hallways. In order to improve safety in campus buildings and achieve compliance with applicable regulations the

University is beginning a campaign to clear the hallways of unnecessary items.

The campaign will consist of a period of education within the building followed by a site evaluation by campus Fire Marshal staff. At that time owners of items that need to be moved will be contacted and options for removal will be discussed. If the item has no owner or if after two weeks the item has not been removed, the item will be disposed of or sent to surplus by the Fire Marshal.

If you have any questions please call Environment, Health and Safety at 962-5508.

*Egress; exit, a place or means of going out.



7th floor Neurosciences Hospital



Obvious that hallways are being used for storage (Fordham Hall)

Help Us Help You by Conor Keeney

At UNC-Chapel Hill, there are nearly 6,000 fire extinguishers located in laboratories, classrooms, hallways, mechanical rooms, attics, offices, vehicles, and parking decks. By law, the university is required to inspect each of these extinguishers on a yearly basis. Fortunately for you, EHS has one full time employee dedicated to inspecting and maintaining the University's extinguishers. Unfortunately for that employee,

many of the extinguishers on campus have been moved from their original locations or are located behind locked doors to which EHS does not have access. As a result, some extinguishers have not been inspected within the last year or, in some cases, in several years.

Every fire extinguisher is required to have an inspection tag attached to it documenting when it was last inspected. If the last

inspection date (month and year) falls within the last 12 months, the extinguisher is OK. If the last inspection date falls outside the previous 12 months, the extinguisher needs to be inspected. Please take a look at any extinguishers you may have in your office or laboratory. If the extinguisher is due for inspection or there is no inspection tag, please contact us at 962-5508 and we will inspect it for you.



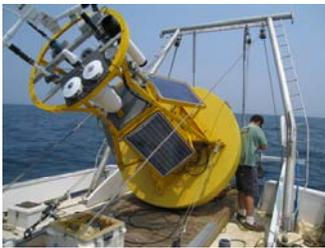
Out of date Fire Extinguisher Tag

The Capricorn Works Safely on Unsafe Waters

by Kitty Lynn



Captain Joe Purifoy, Stacy Davis, Mate Claude Lewis, & Adrian Whichard on board the R. V. Capricorn.



Working around the A-frame and buoy requires careful planning.



The Capricorn made 65-70 safe trips in 2005.



Captain Purifoy at the helm of an IMS boat

“You name it, danger lurks on a boat,” warns Claude Lewis, a mate on the RV (research vessel) Capricorn—at the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City, NC. For the crew of the Capricorn; Captain Joe Purifoy, Mate Claude Lewis, and Mate Wayne Fluellen; it’s all a matter of safety management. The Capricorn is responsible for multiple tasks which include hosting classes from different universities, pulling trawl to collect (fish) samples, and collecting water samples from the Neuse River. The crew is also responsible for installing the SEACOOS (South East Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing System) Research Buoy into the Atlantic Ocean.

“My first day on the job, the A-frame [used to pull trawls and deploy gear into the sea] snapped in half,” Lewis explains the event which also happened during the boat’s first test voyage. The welding on the A-frame was defective, but is now corrected and works properly. Lewis, who has worked on the boat for 4 years, says of inclement weather, “If there is a hurricane, we put the boat in the boatyard.” It is clear that preparation and common sense play an important role in everyday safety on the Capricorn.

While the Capricorn is a research boat, the U.S. Coast Guard reports that of the 12,781,476 registered recreational boats on U. S. water, 676 fatalities occurred in

2004. Many of these fatalities were due to carelessness by untrained operators. Captain Joe Purifoy implemented a “Small Boat Program” for researchers after one such unfortunate event took place. Researchers must prove that they can manage the boat safely in any kind of situation, or they will be denied access to it. They must have acquired their CPR and First Aid certification, and pass the U.S. Coast Guard Certification for navigating a small boat. After these criteria are met, Purifoy will work with them on the boat, going over basic boating procedures. When he feels confident they can handle the boat safely, he gives them his blessing.

Purifoy, who has been on the water all his life, has been Capricorn’s Captain for 5 years. With the help of his crewmembers, the latest installation of the NC-SEACOOS buoy was successful. The Cape Lookout Shoals “SEACOOS Buoy” provides critical information to various organizations for a variety of reasons. This data assists environmental protection, public health, industry, education, research and recreation. Benefits from this research are used for marine operations, natural hazard mitigation (storm forecasting, surge prediction, tsunami warning), climate change, national security (toxin trajectories, detection of covert activities), public health (unsafe biological activity, rip currents, harmful algal blooms) and more. Every day the buoy collects data on

wind, air temperature, humidity, barometric pressure, precipitation, radiation, water temperature, salinity, wave heights and currents.

Stacy Davis, also an employee of the Institute of Marine Science, steps in as Captain when Purifoy is away. Davis explains how important teamwork is to the process of maintaining safety on the boat. “I want things to go nice and smooth. Everyone must be comfortable and on the same page or it can be a catastrophe. Everyone has “say so” on the boat and we all try to pull together to make sensible decisions.” Stacy explains that anyone on board can stop the action if they see a safety issue.

For this hard-working crew, trying new methods to achieve better results is optimum for safety and performance on the job. Everyone pitches in, works their hardest, and looks out for the next person regardless of changing conditions or the physical demands of the job. Luckily for the rest of us landlubbers, they are setting a great example.



Claude is careful with the pulley that works the A-frame.

Fire Sprinklers; Fact vs. Fiction

By Kitty Lynn

“Nearly once every minute, somewhere in America, there is a home fire serious enough to warrant calling the fire department”, according to the National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc. How does this fact relate to sprinklers on campus? Whether the facts describe residential homes or an educational facility, the threat is the same. The effects of fire are not easily forgotten. An automatic fire sprinkler protection system is designed to either extinguish a fire or hold it in check until firefighters can arrive to put the fire out. We’re glad that over half of the buildings on campus have sprinkler systems installed in them!

It is a common myth that all of the sprinklers in a room or building will activate when a fire starts. In fact, a single sprinkler is designed to activate when the temperature in the area directly below it rises to a certain level (usually 165° F). Among other things, the sprinkler consists either of a

solder link or a liquid-filled glass bulb which protrudes either from the ceiling or the wall. When this glass bulb “feels” heat, the glass breaks, releasing a steady stream of water on the burning material. Only the “heated” area under a single sprinkler will activate to put out the fire. If the fire is larger than the area of one sprinkler, more sprinklers will activate until all of the “burning” areas under each sprinkler are cooled to sufficiently extinguish the fire. This design limits the application of water to the burning area.

Where are sprinklers required? In 1998 UNC adopted a code that states all new buildings will be sprinklered. UNC wants to ensure full protection throughout the campus. Sprinklers quickly work to extinguish fires, enabling occupants to escape the building.

According to The Center for Campus Fire Safety, nationwide, 88 people have been killed in student housing since January 2000. Almost, 80 percent of the fire fatalities have occurred in off-campus occupancies such as rented houses and apartments. Of the causes of these fires, the absence of automatic fire sprinklers plays a part, as well as disabled smoke alarms, smoking, and alcohol.

You can identify sprinklers in your building by examining the ceiling for either the sprinkler itself, or a round, white metal cap flush against the ceiling which conceals the sprinkler. This cap was created for aesthetic purposes to hide the sprinkler. In either case, the result is the same; your building is protected against fire. Unlike the Fire Alarm, which serves to notify occupants to evacuate, the sprinkler system actually extinguishes the fire. Since there is a significant amount of water used when a sprinkler is

activated, there is often some water damage. For this reason, some occupancies, such as libraries and computer rooms, do not have a sprinkler system. It would not make sense to use an extinguishment system that caused more damage to the contents than the fire. But, structural damage caused by fire and smoke is usually greater than water damage from a sprinkler system.



Parking garage at Baity Hill is sprinklered.



Illustration of a sprinkler activation.



Ceiling sprinkler installed.

Photo group by Firesprinkler.org



Recessed sprinkler shown uninstalled.

Making Your Own American Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Kit (EPK)

To make your own kit, simply gather the following items *before* the emergency and store them in a large portable, water-proof container. In addition to buying gallons of drinking water, you can fill up your bathtub with water to use during an emergency. Also, many camp stores sell collapsible containers for water storage. Remember to store enough water and food for pets. Store one gallon of water per person or pet per day of emergency, (yes, some guesswork is involved).

With the federal and state government warning that local areas may be on their own during some emergency situations, it's a great idea to have a family Emergency Preparedness Kit ready to go.

Items For Your American Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Kit:

Water—have at least one gallon per person/pet per day.

Food—pack non-perishable, high-protein items, Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking and little or no water.

Flashlight—include extra batteries.

First Aid Kit—include a first-aid guide.

Medication—prescription and non-prescription items for people and pets.

Tools— a wrench to turn off gas, manual can opener, screwdrivers, hammer, pliers, knife, duct tape, plastic sheeting and garbage bags .

Clothing— change of clothing for everyone including sturdy shoes.

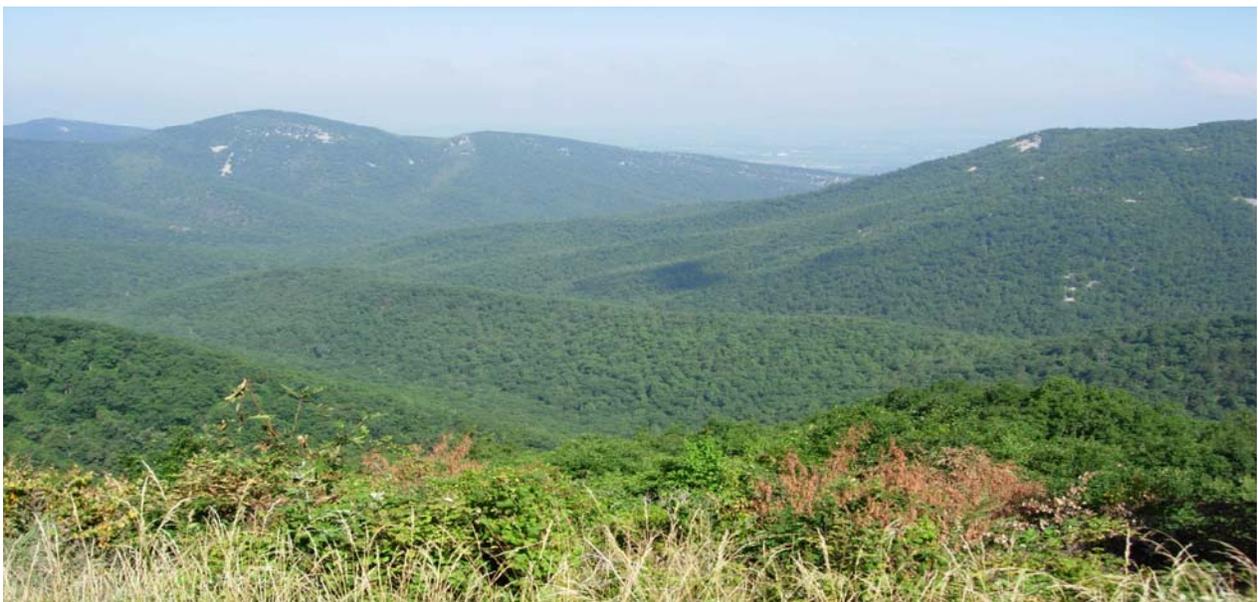
Personal Items—eyeglasses, contacts, copies of important papers, comfort items like books, toys.

Sanitary Supplies—toilet paper, towelettes, personal hygiene items, bleach.

Cash—ATMs and credit cards will not work if the electricity is out.

Contact Information— family/friend phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Pet Documents— gather current pet vaccinations into a watertight bag.



VIEW FROM VIRGINIA'S SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK JULY 2006