It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s someone on a University roof! There is a new safety program to protect students, staff, faculty, and members of the general public while on the University’s roofs. Many of the University’s research, learning, and educational offerings utilize roof space. These range from weather stations, bee hives, and even star gazing parties to name just a few of the exciting activities of University life. A working group convened last year comprised of a cross sectional team to help our community be safe while on roofs. The working group consisted of faculty, contractor, maintenance, and police representatives. The group developed the University Roof Safety Program which provides access rules, rules on how to work safely while on a roof, and a brief online training. Before you head up on a roof, take a look at this new safety program to help keep yourself and your colleagues safe. Although there are many spaces on campus that are meant for human occupancy such as outdoor patios, terraces, and balconies, these are referred to as elevated platforms and are not subject to the University Roof Safety Program.
On September 17, Texas Department of State Heath Services (TDSHS) performed an inspection of our licensed radioactive material (RAM) use and storage at the Dell Pediatric Research Institute. The TDSHS inspector visited a research lab using radioactive materials and spoke with laboratory personnel. In addition to conducting radiation surveys and reviewing lab signage and records he inspected EHS’ analytical lab and radioactive waste storage rooms. The inspector found the radiation safety program to be in compliance with the applicable TDSHS rules in 25TAC289 and our radioactive materials license.

Respiratory Protection Program

You can breathe a little easier here at UT. We now have a brand new Respiratory Protection Program for students, staff, and faculty who are required to wear respirators as part of their studies or job. Respirators are an important piece of personal protective equipment. When used properly, they safeguard the wearer from inhalation hazards. These hazards can be chemical, biological, radiological, etc. This new safety program does not apply to those who wear a respirator for voluntary use. There are three main components to the respiratory program. The first is to have a medical evaluation by the appropriate University medical provider. Students should contact University Health Services (UHS) and employees should make an appointment with HealthPoint, the Occupational Health Program (OHP). Each medical provider sets the length of time for follow up medical evaluations. However, seeking advice for significant changes in the wearer’s health status is encouraged. In addition, UHS and HealthPoint will perform fit testing on respirators for their respective clients. The last piece of the program is training. Users of respirators must successfully complete the online general training modules for all the respirators that they may wear, and read manufacturer’s specifications for all respirators. Breathe in, breathe out, and wear your respiratory protection if required.
New UT-Austin Mobile Vending Requirements

- All mobile vendors who sell food on campus must have a permit issued by UT Austin EHS to operate.
- Mobile vendors must be sponsored by a UT representative. The UT representative will submit a Food Distribution Request form to EHS for review: http://www.utexas.edu/safety/ehs/food/
- Mobile vendors should apply for an EHS permit 30 days before an event to allow for processing and inspection. There is a fee for the permit.
- If permitted by another health department, mobile vendors must provide a copy of their permit to EHS as part of the permit application.
- Mobile vendors not permitted by the City of Austin will be subject to an additional one-time inspection by UT Fire Prevention Services (UT-FPS).
- EHS will not issue a permit until permit fee payment has been received and the vendor passes all required inspections.
- The vendor must clearly display the permit to the public during events on campus.
- EHS has the authority to inspect a permitted vendor at any time.
- EHS reserves the right to withdraw its permit upon its discretion and require a vendor to leave campus immediately.

Design Standards

- Vendors must have a minimum 30 gallon fresh water tank.
- Waste water tank must be 15% greater than the fresh water tank.
- Tanks must be insulated from freezing.
- Fresh water and waste water lines must be distinct from each other and use different gauges to prevent cross connections.
- A separate hand sink is required.
- Ware wash sink must be large enough to completely submerge largest ware used.
- Unit must have hot water. Hot and cold water must be under pressure (no gravity flow).
- No external equipment or storage allowed outside the unit at any time.
- All waste generated by vendor must be removed by vendor and disposed properly.

To have your name added to or removed from our mailing list please send a message to Health.Safety@austin.utexas.edu with “Subscribe” or “Remove” in the subject line.