

Health & Safety

HEALTH & SAFETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2015

Spotlighting on Summer Safety ...

New L&I WACs for Employee Safe Handling of Drugs

Recently, the Director of UW Environmental Health & Safety alerted us to changes in state laws with respect to the safe handling of certain drugs. Please read below to see if these new WACs apply to the controlled substances in your department:



Step 1: Compare NIOSH list to SOD drug inventory. If nothing on the list is administered by SOD personnel then the rule won't apply.

Step 2: Determine if there is potential for **occupational exposure:** from the WAC rule (296-62-50010). **Occupational exposure** means reasonably anticipated inhalation, skin, ingestion, or injection contact with hazardous drugs as a result of the performance of an employee's duties. Some drugs defined as hazardous may not pose a significant risk of occupational exposure because of their dosage formulation (for example, coated tablets or capsules that are administered to patients without modifying the formulation). However, they may pose a risk if altered (for example, if tablets are crushed or dissolved, or if capsules are pierced or opened).



Patient Safety First: Pre-procedure Huddle

A pre-procedure huddle before non-reversible dental procedures, such as surgery, should be conducted when one or more of the following criteria exist: Informed consent is required, moderate sedation is administered and it's a non-reversible procedure. **All** members of the dental team (including the attending dentist) must be present immediately prior to the procedure and must verbally confirm the correct patient, procedure, site, position, availability of correct implants and special equipment or requirements and that prophylactic antibiotics have been given if ordered. Document in the progress notes/surgery form the hour that the final verification timeout was performed, followed by an attending dentist signature. The School's "Correct Patient, Correct Procedure, Correct Site Verification Policy" located on the School's website at http://dental.washington.edu/wp-content/media/policies/clinical-policy/Correct_Patient_Correct_Procedure.pdf

On the Job: April & May

The following incidents were reported during April and May:

- ⇒ Two accidents were reported in April; a reaction to latex gloves and an arm/shoulder injury.
- ⇒ Six exposures, 3 procedure-related and 2 cleaning unit/sterilization related were reported in April.
- ⇒ One accident in May in which a butane torch caused a burn was reported.
- ⇒ In May, seven exposures occurred; one procedure-related, one during needle recapping and one due to the lack of eye protection.



REMINDER! Turn butane torches **TIGHTLY** to the OFF position after use. If not tightly turned off, fumes can build up and unexpectedly ignite, causing accidental burns or fires.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"The safest risk is the one you didn't take."

-Author Unknown

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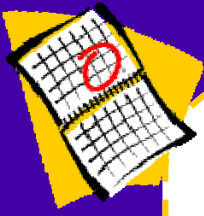
Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

Summer Water Safety Reminders & Tips

Did You Know? Fun Facts

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SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



✓ Mark Your Calendars for H&S Events

- ⇒ **6/20, 7/18, 8/15, Saturdays from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM: Low-Cost Custom-fit Life Jacket Sales at Green Lake**, a program of Seattle Parks & Rec., the Coast Guard Auxiliary and Mustang Survival. Located outside Green Lake Pool, 7201 E. Green Lake Dr. N, Seattle, WA 98115. Cost is \$20 for infant, child and youth, \$30 for adult sizes. Person for whom the jacket is being purchased must be present for proper fitting. More info at Seattle Parks, David Belanger, (206)684-4961 or david.belanger@seattle.gov
- ⇒ **Preventing Workplace Violence Training** will be offered again at the dental school this summer. The training is required at time of hire and subsequently every 2 years thereafter. An excellent flier, "Workplace Violence Checklist: What Faculty & Supervisors Must Do" can be printed and posted in your area. You can find the flier at: www.washington.edu/admin/hr/polproc/work-violence/wpb-supchklist.pdf
- ⇒ **Coming Soon: Mask Test Day!** Phil Numoto, Occupational Health & Safety Specialist from EH&S has been working with clinics to standardize our PPE and will be assisting the School in selecting the best mask for meeting WISHA standards. A Doodle poll to select the testing date will be sent to clinic supervi-



Summer Water Safety Reminders & Tips

- 7-12** Extra pounds of buoyancy needed to keep an adult's head above water
- 9** Nine out of 10 drownings occur in inland waters, most within a few feet of safety
- 12** Replace the inflation bobbin on an automatically inflating life jacket every 12 months
- 13** Federal regulations require children 13 and under to wear a life jacket
- 16** Minimum age for children to wear automatically or manually CO₂- gas inflating life vests
- 16** Boats 16' or longer require at least one throwable flotation device (type IV, cushions, rings buoys, etc.)
- 20** Seconds it can take for a child to drown
- 25** The human body cools 25 times faster in cold water than in air
- 60** Seconds it can take for an adult to drown
- 70** For purposes of water safety, water less than 70 degrees is considered "cold water"
- 70** Percent of all boating fatality accidents which result from drowning
- 85** Percent of drowning victims who are not wearing a life jacket; most had a life jacket available and chose not to wear it.



H.E.L.P. survival position: Heat Escape Lessening Position - knees brought as close as possible to chest, hands grasped together over knees and chest but under front of your life jacket. Some life jacket types may cause your face to submerge in the HELP position, if so, bring legs and arms straight down, hold arms tight to sides with head tilted back. Whenever possible, keep arms snug to body under life jacket.

Huddle: If others are in the water with you, huddle together for warmth while awaiting rescue

Underhanded throw: Best way to throw boat cushions

Drip dry: Never dry lifejackets on radiator, heater, campfire or any direct heat source

Shoulder lift test: Children's life jackets should fit snugly; lift the shoulders of the life jacket to make sure it does not slip over the chin or ears. The life jacket is too big if there are more than three inches between the child's shoulders and the device. Crotch straps are an important feature on life jackets for younger kids.

Relaxed arms & legs: Children should be taught to relax arms and legs when wearing a life jacket; violent struggling can counteract a life jacket's performance.

25% Off Life Jacket Coupon: Check out this great resource webpage from Children's Hospital on water safety and drowning prevention with 25% off coupons for life jackets at Big 5 Sporting goods stores in Washington and N. Idaho, through 9/30/15. <http://www.seattlechildrens.org/classes-community/community-programs/drowning-prevention/>



HEALTH
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Did You Know?



Toe-to-thumb transplant micro-surgeries have been performed since 1972 to restore hand function due to accident or congenital anomalies. Transplanted toes restore opposable function such as grasping and pinching. Strangely, big toes decrease in size by up to a third when moved to the hand, and a foot can compensate for a missing big toe when other toes drift their position to compensate. Source: Sutter Health CPMC 2014

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