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### Safety & Risk Management News October 2018

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# SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT NEWS

Current News in EH&S and Risk Management

October 2018



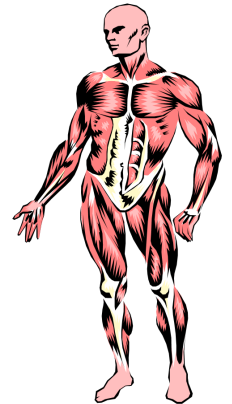
## November is Risk Management Month

Join us in November as we highlight the importance of risk management across campus. We have put together a great line-up of sessions which focus on best practices in the areas of health and safety, compliance, and general risk management topics. We have the following four live presentations scheduled throughout the month. Feel free to join us at any or all of the sessions that interest you!

### Wednesday Nov. 7th

Dr. Paul Cook will be speaking on the Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Tourniquet Use. He will discuss the damage caused by the miss-use of tourniquets by emergency responders. He will clarify when they are appropriate for use and when they are not a good idea. This presentation is scheduled for the CRC room 201 from 1:00-2:00 pm for a lunch and learn session (people can bring their lunch if they want)

**Please Note** This presentation is very graphic and detailed with severe and fatal wounds and surgery techniques.



### Monday Nov. 12

The Otterbein Bat Team will present a session at the Service Department from 7:30—8:30 am, addressing the human/animal conflict that exists everywhere. They will be accompanied by the Ohio Wildlife Center, who are partners with Otterbein's Zoo and Conservation Science program.

### Thursday Nov. 15th

Greg Nartker will be speaking on Ergonomics in the Workplace. His presentation is scheduled for the Campus Center Dining Room 1 from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. for a lunch and learn session, people can grab lunch through the line and then come to the presentation.



### Wednesday Nov. 28th

The FBI will be speaking on Counterintelligence Threats and Travel Awareness and Cyber Crimes (a one hour presentation on both topics). The travel awareness portion will be the first hour and the cyber crimes will follow for the second hour of the presentation. This session is scheduled for the Campus Center Dining room 1 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., people can grab their lunch in the line and then come to the presentation.

The **University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA)** will also be hosting webinars on Wednesdays during November from 1:00-2:00 EST. Those dates are November 7th, 14th, and 28th. Topics for the webinars include **Opioids, Student Suicide, and Whistle-blowers**. You can join the webinar right from the comfort of your desk. Watch for further updates on how to join each of those sessions.

## Is It Mold or Something Else?

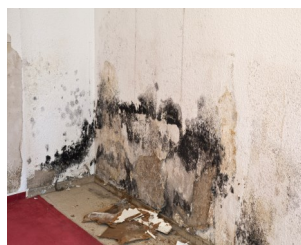
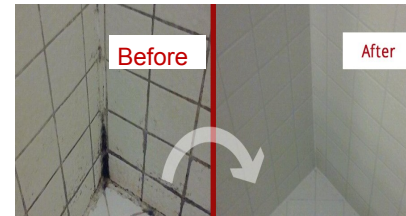
Mold is ubiquitous and mold spores are a common component of the household and workplace environment. However when you see “spots of brown, or whitish grey” stuff on surfaces or fan grates, it often is not mold. This is typically common house hold dirt and dust. Sometimes people confuse dust or dirt with mold. So, how do we tell the difference?

Typically it is not hard to distinguish between mold and dirt. Here are some tips and signs to help distinguish the two, these are just guidelines, not absolute.

- Mold needs something organic on which to grow, so typically something steel aluminum, such as your fan grates do not support growth. This is typically dust or dirt.
- Molds typically grow in areas where there is low air flow and high humidity, so consequently an air conditioning unit duct wouldn't normally support its growth. This is again usually dirt or dust.
- If you can easily wipe the brown or whitish-grey stuff off with a common household cleaner and cloth it probably is not mold, as mold does not typically wipe off easily. Mold tends to grow into whatever it is on.



The fungi that mold is most often confused with is Mildew. Mold and mildew are fungi brothers, but they definitely have their differences and mildew is the lesser of the two evils! Mildew is typically what you see growing around your shower area, in patches of gray and white spots. Mildew is a flat growing fungi that is easily treated with any store bought cleaner and a scrub brush. If you have lots of extra moisture, such as steam from the shower, or several people using the shower in a small area such as a dormitory, this creates excessive moisture and will support the growth of mildew, and require frequent cleaning of the area.



Mold is much more invasive and tends to grow into the material it is on and typically causes structural damage, such as the photos to the left of wood and drywall.

### Helpful Hints:

Clean your rooms and work areas frequently

If several people are taking showers in a small area, it is helpful to leave the bathroom fan on for a while to help remove excessive moisture

Check for any water leaks in the area, including your refrigerators and report them in the work order system right away.

One last recommendation is that you use regular bed mattresses and not foam, as the foam will hold and collect moisture.

## Campus Fire Alarms

Knowing what you can do to help out your fellow  
faculty, staff, students and the Westerville Community!

We all play a very important role in the proper response to Fire Alarms!

So what happens when the smoke detector goes off? A series of events takes place simultaneously. The first being the receipt of the alarm by a monitoring company who then notifies the Westerville 911 Communications Center. A dispatcher then sends both fire equipment and the police to respond. The fire equipment generally responds from two different fire stations. The one located on Main Street will respond with a fire truck, a ladder truck and a battalion chief. The other fire equipment will come from one of the other two stations depending on availability. That means at any given time there will be four pieces of fire equipment on the road heading to investigate the alarm plus a police unit.



Westerville Fire wants to assure everyone on campus, especially students who may have anxiety about reporting the cause of the alarms, that fire alarms are expected and the fire department will not punish or charge for the response, as long as it is an accident and not a prank. The fire department is aware and very understanding to the fact that many of the smoke detectors in campus residential areas and other buildings are very sensitive.

The following items are common causes of many of the campus false activations: #1 burnt popcorn, #2 burnt foods, #3 steam from showers, #4 hair/body spray, #5 smoke/steam from curling irons or other devices. Keep in mind that anything that emits smoke, steam or vapor can be picked up by the detectors very easily, so be cautious and try to avoid using any devices close to the smoke detectors located on the ceiling. If a fire alarm is activated in your building, the first action that you should take is always to immediately get out of the building. The fire department and police take all alarms seriously and respond as if there is a true fire, so it is expected that all faculty, staff and students do the same.

Want to help? The biggest thing you can do to help facilitate getting everyone back into the building as quickly as possible, especially when it gets cold out, is to make yourself known if you know the cause of the alarm. This helps save response time, as the fire fighters can avoid going to the alarm panel to find out what room the alarm is coming from, if someone already knows and tells them as soon as they arrive. Additionally, remember the amount of equipment in route to the scene? The sooner the alarm can be reset, the equipment in route can be cancelled, reducing the exposure to the public and the equipment making its way through traffic. All you need to do is meet the first vehicle arriving to the scene and give the police or fire personnel a room number and the reason for the alarm, if you know of the cause. Also, once you are safely outside the building be sure to go to the evacuation assembly area for the building that you are in. This will help with faster accountability as well as ensure the area for fire and police equipment remain clear for response. If you do not know your evacuation assembly area, you can check with the building captain, or contact the campus Environmental Health and Safety Officer (EH&S) at [tchinn@otterbein.edu](mailto:tchinn@otterbein.edu) to find out. Everyone's assistance and cooperation is very important.

**Co Written by Westerville Battalion Chief Andy Hicks and Otterbein EH&S Officer Tara Chinn**

