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SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT NEWS

Current News in EH&S and Risk Management

September 2019

Campus Fire Safety Days

Join us in September as we recognize National Campus Fire Safety Month. Otterbein will join universities and colleges across the nation in holding events to spread awareness to students, faculty, and staff about fire safety. We will host three Doll House Burn sessions where you'll have the opportunity for hands-on learning of fire safety related to the dangers of "door propping" and the proper use of a fire extinguisher. The Westerville Fire Department will be on campus leading the Fire Safety Sessions on the dates and times listed below. All sessions will be located on the North Side of the Campus Center, lower level.



Doll House Burn Live Demonstrations
Dangers of door Propping

Come out and enjoy some free food (while supplies last) and participate in life-saving training with your fellow students, faculty, and staff!

Wednesday, Sept. 25th, 2019

Time 9:30 am — 10:30 am

Wednesday, Sept. 25th 2019

Time 2:30 pm — 3:30 pm

Thursday, Sept. 26th 2019

Time 11:45 am — 12:45 pm

This event was organized by the Campus Safety Team, in coordination with Facilities Management, Residence Life and the Westerville Division of Fire!

Slips, Trips and Falls Campaign

The Otterbein Campus Safety Team is starting a Slips, Trips and Falls Campaign for our campus!

We will be sharing a couple of “scenarios” during the month of October via email to all faculty and staff of certain slip, trip or fall incidents, as well as recommended actions that anyone can take to prevent such situations from occurring on our campus. We will also share a scenario when the winter weather is rolling in (likely in December). Our goal is for everyone to have more **situational awareness** on things that cause slips, trips, and falls in their work areas, as well as throughout campus, so that we can be more proactive and all work together to “**See Something, Say Something**” and try to prevent these injuries from occurring!

Currently slips, trips and falls are Otterbein’s highest number of reported injuries on campus. These incidents cause loss of work hours as well as often need medical attention. We hope that everyone can help lower our slips, trips, and falls down to zero!



to



Some Simple Things You Can Do To Help Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls

In your work area are listed below.

- Keep floors mopped and debris swept up.
- Remove obstacles and clutter from any walkways, stairwells or exit areas.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Secure and report mats, rugs and carpets that don't lay flat.
- Keep file cabinet or storage drawers closed when not in use.
- Cover cables that cross walkways.
- Keep working areas and pathways well lit, report lights that are out.

Safety Tip

Especially for animals you do not know!
(Domestic, Feral or Wild)

They may often be irresistible, cute and cuddly, like the little kittens in the picture to the right. However, both domestic and feral animals often interact with wild animals, creating hidden dangers that most people do not think about. They carry a large number of bacteria that are capable of causing tissue infections in bite wounds or even in open wounds or broken skin that a person may already have. One of the most common pathogenic bacteria transmitted is *Pasteurella multocida*. They can also be infected with viruses such as Rabies. Just this summer two very serious incidents occurred in the country which were similar in nature. One individual received a small bite from a kitten and the other individual had scratches on their body that a dog licked. Both incidents resulted in traumatic symptoms requiring medical treatment. The person with the kitten bite ended up having hand surgery the very next day due to an infection that was quickly spreading. The incident with the lovable dog led the person to have amputations resulting from a virulent infection. While these types of incidents are rare, the risk of exposure is higher with animals you do not know which may have been in contact with wild animals. So do not handle stray, feral or wild animals to protect yourself from serious complications.



Bat Team

Don't Worry, the Bat Team Is Here



Maybe you have heard of the Bat Mobile, but have you heard about the Otterbein Bat Team? Yes, Otterbein has a Bat Team, currently consisting of 11 members. The members are all part of the Animal Conservation Science Club and work directly with the Ohio Wildlife Center. This group works in collaboration with Otterbein University's Environmental Health and Safety Officer to provide the campus community assistance with bats that may get into any of the campus facilities. All of the bats are captured following proper safety techniques and procedures established by the Ohio Wildlife Center to provide not only safety to the community, but also proper wildlife control and respect to the animals.

To report a bat, simply notify OPD at their non-emergency line (614) 823-1222

Things to report to OPD are the location of the bat, what the bat is doing (flying or landed), does the bat appear sick (white stuff on its nose, lethargic or anything strange), are there people in the area where the bat is located? OPD will notify the EH&S Officer and the Bat Team will be called! If possible stay in the area and try to keep track of the location of the bat to assist the Bat Team members responding in finding it.

The Bat Team can often assist with other animals causing issues on campus as well.