

The purpose of this newsletter is to unite all the UNBC campus's (Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Gitwinksihlkw, Quesnel, Likely, Ft St John) and grow our UNBC Community's Safety Culture together by regularly communicating important Safety information. UNBC's mission is to Ignite, Inspire, and Lead change.

September is a very busy month for UNBC as the fall semester starts and schools all around in general. Just a friendly reminder that the speed limit for our PG Campus is 30km.

Here are some alarming school zone statistics in hopes to keep us more focused when driving:

- 1 of 4 Nearly a quarter of drivers report witnessing a near miss collision in a school zone. More than half involve a child.
- Nearly half of Canadians say they witnessed a distracted driver in a school zone.
- Nearly 6 in 10 Canadians say there are more unsafe driving practices in the school zones today than in the past.
- 70% of Canadians say they have witnessed speeding in school zones, an increase from polling done in 2016.
- The top 3 unsafe motorists behaviors seen in school zones are speeding, illegal parking/stopping and distracted driving.
- September is an important month for pedestrian awareness, with more fatalities occurring during this month than any other month (Transport Canada 2017).

Parking Reminder: Vehicles shall be parked in designated parking spots. Note, paid parking is in effective on the UNBC Campus and at the Northern Sports Centre 24hours per day, 7 days per week. Note that for the purpose of collecting unpaid parking fees and / or violation fees in respect of a vehicle parking on UNBC lots, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia will provide the name and address of the registered owner of the vehicle to the UNBC Parking administrative staff upon request.

Please do not park on any University roadways without prior arrangement and do not park in Emergency or fire lanes. Do not park in any area not clearly marked as a parking stall or in loading zones. Any vehicle which is improperly parked and/or parked in one of the designated parking stalls or special spaces without displaying a proper parking permit or pass will be subject to a parking citation and/or towing. A reminder it is the user's responsibility to ensure that all permits and tickets are

clearly displayed on the driver's side dash or rear-view mirror.

Unsafe Conditions Safety Talk - There is a long list of possibilities for what can contribute to or cause a workplace injury. Unsafe conditions and unsafe acts are often the root cause of why injuries occur. As per WorkSafeBC an estimated 80 out of 100 people who are involved in an incident are at fault for it. Here are five common contributing factors to workplace injuries:

1. Distractions - There are many distractions that can take away focus from the work task at hand. These distractions can be in our actual work environment, such as clutter or noise, or a mental dis-traction. Mental distractions stemming from what is going on in our home life can serve as a huge disruption to getting tasks done safely at work.

2. Complacency - Many workers do the same tasks over and over for many years. Because of this familiarity with their work, complacency can set in. Complacency leads to taking shortcuts or not following normal work procedures. When this occurs, an injury is more likely to occur on the job.

3. Poor Housekeeping - Housekeeping is a major issue in some workplaces. Poor housekeeping leads to many different hazards. Some common injuries include slips, trips, falls, lacerations, sprains, and strains. A lack of housekeeping often is a signal that there are larger safety issues at hand.

4. Poor Preplanning - The lack of planning leads to a huge number of issues. When the hazards of a new task are not evaluated prior to work beginning, hazards are going to be left uncontrolled. This leaves employees at risk of injury or exposure. Poor preplanning can also lead to issues with not having the correct equipment, tools, materials, personnel, and training for the work, as well as a lack of time to get the job done. All of these issues have their own unique safety implications.

Fun Fact!

In the past few weeks the "IT" department has put in 2.5 km of cable for increased IT capacity.

5. Taking Shortcuts - A major unsafe act that results in many workplace injuries is taking shortcuts. There are various reasons why a worker takes a shortcut, but eventually, enough safety shortcuts will lead to a workplace injury.

UNBC as a whole works hard in creating a respectful workplace which benefits everyone by improving teamwork, increasing productivity, and enhancing overall job satisfaction. It is important to foster a culture of respect in any work environment. For our UNBC community this includes:

- Valuing diversity and being inclusive of different perspectives.
- Communicating effectively involves active listening and clear, respectful dialogue.
- Recognizing the contributions of others and showing appreciation for their efforts.
- Maintaining professionalism in interactions, even during disagreements.

- Following workplace policies and guidelines that support a respectful environment.

Shelving in offices, and storage spaces in general:

Avoid stacking heavy items on the top shelf please. Stack the heavier items closer to the floor. This approach minimizes the risk of shelving tipping over and causing injury or damage.

529 Garage bicycle registration service: The 529 Garage enterprise software is now free to be used by all RCMP detachments, municipal police forces, and universities throughout British Columbia. This will allow these organizations to help community members to register their bikes, access bike registrations and stolen bike alerts to prevent, and address bike theft for a coordinated approach across the province.

A recent study from SFU found that 45% of bike theft victims reduce or stop cycling post-theft. Working to support bicycle anti-theft initiatives plays an important part in achieving our climate goals and UNBC's Green Initiative.

Safety & current events



Down for annual maintenance. The "Fire Tube Boiler" heats up our Campus water. It's open so the tubes can be cleaned & punched. Once the ash is cleaned out, the "Fire Tube Boiler" is ready for inspection.

UNBC's "New" 400MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (NMR). The NMR looks at molecules at the atomic level and is used for seeing what is in synthesized natural products. The NMR also looks at the structure of components.



Positive Observations

Promoting a Safety Conscious Culture for our UNBC Community

HVAC system has a sharp overhead hazard covered with foam & red danger tape to help prevent a potential head injury



Submitted by Kim Aug 1st. "Observed example of excellent safety at UNBC! There were like 5 signs-- impossible to miss!". Thank you, Kim, for sharing!



If you see any positive safety initiatives, please photograph them, and send the pictures to safety@unbc.ca

App Store   Google Play 

Working together for safety

We would like to thank everyone for participating in our growing Safety Community at UNBC!