

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.

Happy November! Welcome to this month's edition of the Safety Newsletter.

At UNBC, safety is a shared responsibility. Whether you're on campus in Prince George, Terrace, Quesnel, or any of our satellite locations, being prepared for emergencies is essential to protect our community. This month, we're focusing on Emergency Preparedness and Response—what it means, why it matters, and how you can take action.

Let's explore how we can stay ready, resilient, and informed together.

Emergency preparedness is a foundational component of institutional resilience and public safety. It represents a proactive, systematic approach to anticipating, mitigating, and responding to crises that may threaten human life, infrastructure, operations, and the environment. At UNBC, this commitment is embedded in our core values and operational priorities.

UNBC is dedicated to ensuring the safety and well-being of all emergency responders and stakeholders by:

- Preserving life and minimizing human suffering through timely, coordinated response efforts. In emergencies, seconds matter. A well-prepared response plan (ERP) ensures rapid evacuation or shelter-in-place procedures, and access to first aid and emergency medical care.
- Safeguarding public health by controlling hazards and preventing secondary impacts.
- Protecting the University's infrastructure and physical assets, ensuring continuity of academic, research, and administrative functions.
- Restoring institutional operations efficiently to minimize disruption to learning and community services.
- Preserving environmental integrity, recognizing the ecological responsibilities tied to our campus and surrounding communities.
- Reducing economic and social losses, both immediate and long-term, through strategic planning and resource allocation.

This comprehensive approach not only fulfills legal and ethical obligations but also reinforces UNBC's role as a responsible, resilient institution capable of withstanding and recovering from emergencies with minimal impact.

Roles & Responsibilities	Occupational Health & Safety Fundamentals	Policies & Procedures	Legitimation: Acts & Regulations	Why Emergency Preparedness Matters: Emergencies can happen anytime—earthquakes, fires, hazardous material spills, or extreme weather events. Being prepared means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing risk and harm • Responding quickly and effectively • Supporting recovery and resilience Preparedness isn't just about having a plan—it's about practicing it, knowing your role, and staying informed.
Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment & Control	Ergonomics for injury prevention & accommodation	Hazardous Materials & Occupational Hygiene	Fire Safety Planning, Systems & Inspections	
Accident Investigation & Reporting	Worksite Inspections	Emergency Preparedness & Response	Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee	

Fun Fact!

During the 2024-2025 academic year, more hours were reserved for workplace activities and academic events than for class scheduling.

Risk Mitigation and Hazard Control

- Preparedness allows organizations and individuals to identify potential hazards (e.g., chemical spills, fires, natural disasters, pandemics) and implement controls to reduce their likelihood or impact. This aligns with the hierarchy of controls in occupational health and safety—eliminating or minimizing risks before they result in harm.

Safety Inspections & Emergency Readiness (Fire drills and First Aid drills)

- Worksite safety inspections are a cornerstone of our proactive risk management strategy. These inspections help identify gaps in emergency procedures, equipment readiness, and hazard controls. Findings are reviewed by the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JOHSC) to improve safety programs and ensure compliance with WorkSafeBC regulations. [University Joint Health and Safety Committee | UNBC](#)

Key Preparedness Actions

Here are some steps you can take today:

- Know your building's evacuation routes and muster points. This reduces anxiety and panic during crises.
- Download the [UNBC Safe App](#) for real-time alerts.
- Review UNBC's Emergency Response Procedures [Emergency Operations | UNBC](#) for events like:
 - Fire Evacuation [Fire evacuation | UNBC](#)
 - Earthquake [Earthquake | UNBC](#)
 - Campus Closure / Snow or Extreme Weather [Campus Closure | UNBC](#)
 - Power Failure [Power Failure | UNBC](#)
 - Active Threats [Active Threat Procedures | UNBC](#)
 - Personal Preparedness [Personal Preparedness | UNBC](#)

Preparedness is built through practice

Annually, during the start of the fall semester in September there are campus wide fire drills that include all the individual buildings. This process also includes the Terrace and QRRRC locations. This is the perfect time to engage the new students and provide a re-fresher to faculty and staff. Additionally, the labs buildings 4 & 8 have fire drills conducted each quarter with the Childcare facility completing monthly fire drills.

A new type of emergency preparedness (ERP) drill came into effect in November of 2024 as per WSBC. All workplaces requiring first aid must complete an annual first aid drill to evaluate effectiveness testing the first aid response time, equipment and procedures. This ERP drill was also completed at the QRRRC location.

How can we take action as an UNBC Community member?

Take 10 minutes each week to walk through your emergency exit route and know what muster area location. Locate and stay familiar with your nearest fire extinguisher, eye wash kits & emergency showers, naloxone kits and first aid kits (if & where applicable). This will help reduce anxiety and panic during crisis.

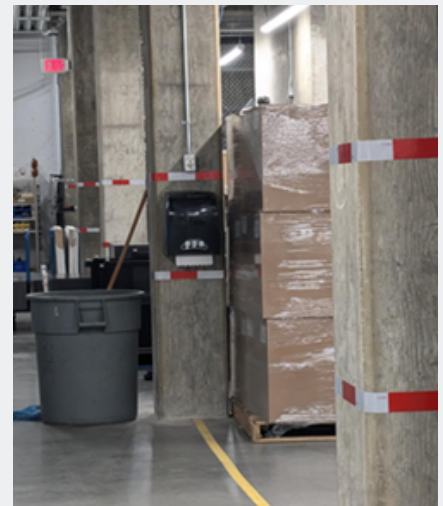
Questions or Concerns?

Reach out to the **UNBC Safety Office** at 250-960-5530 or contact **UNBC Security** at 250-960-7058 or from a **UNBC** landline: 3333

Positive Observations

Promoting a Safety Conscious Culture for our UNBC Community

The Distribution Services warehouse is continually enhancing its space utilization. Clear lane markings have been added to designate individual storage areas, resulting in a more organized and efficient layout. reflective markers were also put on the columns to help when the forklift is in use. Way to go Distribution Services!



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!