

FACULTY OF ENGINEERINGFaculty & Staff SAFETY Newsletter& APPLIED SCIENCEFebruary 2025

Upcoming Events:

Safety Charter: Sign it NOW on UR Self Service.

Responses are OVERDUE:

- 2024 inspection checklists
- site-specific orientation records
- emergency signage updates
- emergency contact updates

(see Jan 21/25 email from Engg.Safety@uregina.ca)

Women in Engineering *Mar 4, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., CK 187*

<u>Chem & Lab Safety Workshops</u> Mar 13, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. (complete online training first)

<u>Thriving in Hybrid Work</u> (Homewood Health) Mar 17: 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

<u>Biosafety Workshops</u> Mar 19, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (complete Chem/Lab Safety and online training first)

<u>Safety for Supervisors</u> Mar 20: 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Employee Orientation Mar 25, 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., CT 215

UofR Safety Expo – more details coming soon! *Mar 25, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

Safety Leadership vs Safety Influence Mar 26: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

<u>Mental Health in the Workplace</u> (Homewood Health) *Apr 8: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

New Health and Safety Orientation (online) Mandatory for all Faculty and Staff Due Apr 30

Contacts:

Campus Protective Services: **306-585-4999 emergencies** 306-585-4407 non-emergency

Emergency Services: 911

Engineering Safety Coordinator: Engg.Safety@uregina.ca

Campus-Wide Health & Safety: Health.Safety@uregina.ca

Resources:

Mental Wellness Hub Support and resources for faculty and staff

<u>Online Therapy Unit</u> Free cognitive behaviour therapy

Health and Safety Policy For all faculty, staff and students

Safety Committee Inspections:

All semester Winter 2025

- all dry labs
- some wet labs remain from Fall 2024

Biweekly inspections for GG and CETRI labs: due Mar 9, Mar 23

Monthly inspections for all other labs: due Mar 31

Good Friday – No classes **Apr 18**. Administrative offices Closed.

Health and Safety Never Sounded So Good!

Take the **Health & Safety Orientation Course** to gain essential health and safety knowledge and discover the resources available to help keep you safe.

Course Highlights:

- Emergency response protocols
- Campus safety procedures
- Mental health and safety resources

Complete the Health & Safety Orientation Course between **February 24 – March 31** and you'll be entered for a chance to win a pair of Sony Headphones! The Health and Safety Orientation is for <u>ALL</u> Faculty and Staff, whether you have been here for 2 months or 20 years!



Watch Your Step – It's Slippery Out There! Our recent warm weather has created icy conditions. Despite the University of Regina's efforts with sanding and salting, slips and falls happen every year—sometimes resulting in serious injuries. Stay safe with these tips:

- **Plan ahead** Allow extra time to reach your destination.
- **Choose the right footwear** Rubber and neoprene soles provide better traction than plastic or leather. Avoid heels.
- **Take it slow** Walk carefully, use handrails on stairs, and wipe snow or water off your shoes when entering buildings.
- **Be cautious when getting in or out of vehicles** Use your car for support and keep your weight centered over your stable leg.
- Avoid shortcuts Steer clear of snow piles and puddles, as they may hide ice.
- Assume all wet or dark patches on pavement are black ice.
- Stay alert Avoid texting or reading while walking.
- Keep your hands free Use a backpack instead of stuffing your hands in your pockets.
- Walk like a penguin Take small, shuffling steps for better stability.

If you notice icy areas on campus, please <u>let us know</u>! Facilities Management will do some additional sanding and salting.

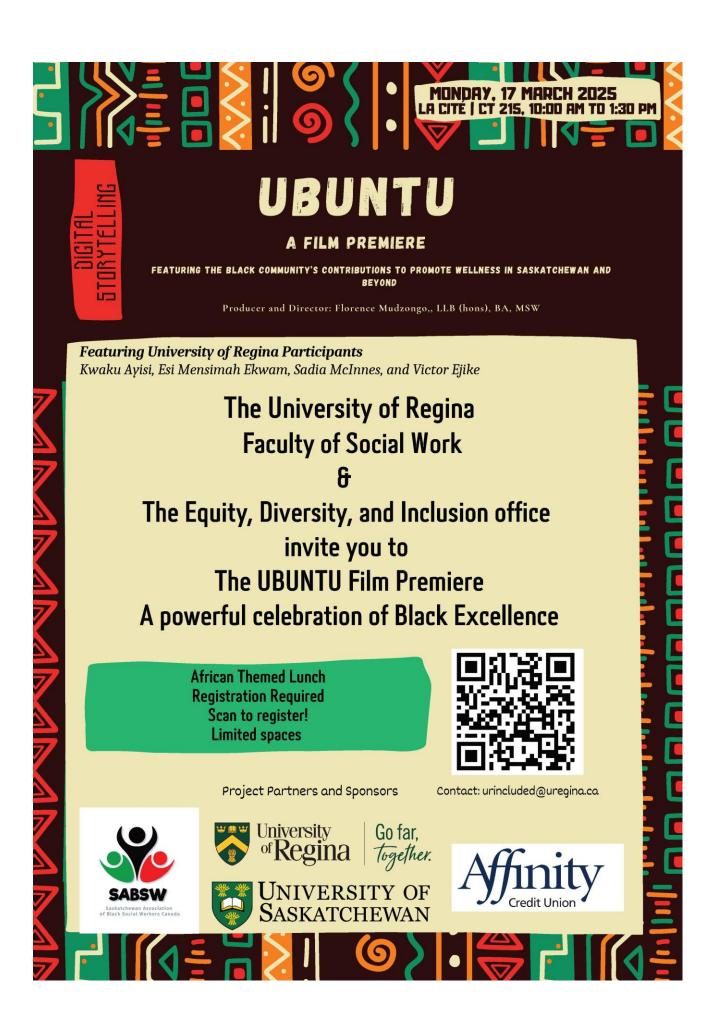
If you fall on campus, it is important to report it as soon as possible to <u>Health and Safety</u>.

Why?

- We'll help ensure you get **medical attention** if needed. If you need medical treatment and/or time away from work (if applicable), we'll help with the **Workers' Compensation** reporting. This is mandatory in Saskatchewan.
- We'll ensure the slippery area is **sanded**.
- Documentation is also for your own protection, just in case you end up with a longer-term injury that requires additional treatment or time away from work.



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Exit Inspections: Do you have graduate students wrapping up research, finishing classes, or graduating soon? Or perhaps planning to withdraw? Or do you have research staff finishing their employment soon? If so, an exit inspection <u>must</u> be completed and keys/cards/fobs returned to the Engineering General Office. Students/staff can do the office exit inspections on their own, but <u>lab exit inspections must be done WITH the supervisor</u>. This is a required step in FGSR's Thesis/Dissertation Submission Checklist and applies to MEng students who used research labs or the MEng lounge.

This process keeps your research spaces clean, safe, and secure. It's also required for students' \$100 deposit refund. Skipping it can lead to unauthorized access, costly re-keying of locks, delayed office reassignment with unnecessary waitlists, and expensive and hazardous cleanup of abandoned chemicals.

An audit of lab/office security and exit inspection compliance is underway, and results so far show poor compliance – which puts your research areas at risk and creates many liability and safety issues.

Individuals can start the process by downloading the <u>Exit Inspection Form</u>. Instructions for your graduate students and researchers are below.

For Offices and MEng Lounge:

- Clean your workspace and remove personal items.
- Complete pages 1-2 of the form (no supervisor signature needed).
- Take photos of your desk and inside drawers and cabinets.
- Email the form and photos to Engg.Grad@uregina.ca for review.
- We will email you to confirm whether the form and photos are suitable.
- **AFTER** you receive confirmation, return your key/card/fob to the Engineering General Office.

For Labs (including Dry Labs):

- Complete pages 1 and 3-5 of the form <u>WITH</u> your supervisor (their signature is required).
- \circ No photos needed.
- Email the completed form to Engg.Grad@uregina.ca and wait for confirmation before returning your key/card/fob.

Please be patient!

Once all steps are complete, we will ask Financial Services to refund the student account. (Research staff are not required to pay the \$100 deposit, so no refund is applied for them).

Annual Renewal for Graduate Student and Research Staff Access: All graduate student and research staff access cards and fobs must be renewed annually, as they expire on June <u>15</u>. More details about the renewal process will be provided soon. In the meantime, now is the perfect opportunity for your research group (including yourselves!) to review **safety training** and renew any courses that have expired or will expire soon.

Student and staff access renewals **will not be approved if training has expired**. Approval may be **conditional** if training will expire shortly after the renewal period.



Not sure what training is needed? Visit the **Engineering Safety Orientation** on UR Courses and review the **Training Requirements** document for guidance. The Engineering Safety Orientation must be renewed annually for graduate students and research staff. All other safety courses are valid for three years.

How to Renew Training:

- Engineering Safety Orientation, WHMIS (stand-alone), and Robotics: Revisit the course materials on UR Courses and retake the quiz.
- Chemical & Lab Safety, Biosafety, Radiation Safety: Enroll with <u>Health and Safety</u>.
- H2S Awareness: Enroll at <u>Hydrogen Sulfide Safety Training</u>.
- Laser Safety: Enroll at Laser Safety Awareness Training.

Your research group will need to make sure their training certificates are available, as they will need to submit them as part of their access renewal.

For these renewals, **you will <u>NOT</u> need to complete a Hazard Assessment**. These assessments are only needed for new access requests.

Questions? Contact Engg.Safety@uregina.ca.

Did you miss the February Safety Share about Hazardous Materials?

You may have a lot of them at home....

- Materials that have passed their shelf life?
- Bottles that are degrading and posing an additional hazard?
- Chemicals stored together that are non-compatible? (e.g. bleach and toilet bowl cleaner)

Check out the <u>Safety Share</u> from Health and Safety to learn about safe handling and disposal of common household items like bleach, medications, mercury, batteries, and degraded containers.





Meet our Safety Team! Each month we will highlight people in our faculty who are "safety champions". These are people who truly care about your safety and can provide support for any safety, health, and wellness issues that may arise.

We would now like to highlight Muhammad Uzair, Graduate Student Representative on the Local Safety Committee:

"I am a graduate student in Industrial Systems Engineering at the University of Regina and the graduate student representative on the Local Safety Committee. I'm also a See Different National Youth Ambassador for EDI and a Senior Ambassador for CESL, actively involved in volunteering and student engagement. My research focuses on ultrathin heat pipes for SMRs. After completing my bachelor's in mechanical engineering, I have worked for OGDCL, a leading oil and gas company, gaining valuable industry experience in safety, maintenance and industrial gas processing. Beyond academics, I'm passionate about blockchain technology, very active socially, and deeply committed to volunteer work, always looking for ways to contribute to the community."



Have an idea for a future newsletter? Is there a safety issue you have been dealing with? Doing research with a safety focus? Email <u>Engg.Safety@uregina.ca</u>. We would love to hear from you!

Engineers hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and protection of the environment and promote health and safety within the workplace (APEGS Code of Ethics).