

Undergrad SAFETY Newsletter November 2024

Upcoming FREE Events:

Time Management and Organizational Skills

Nov 26: 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Breaking Down Barriers to Care: Insights on Alcohol

Misuse and Internet-Delivered Therapy

Nov 28: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Leadership Insights: Minerva's Rising Stars in Safety

Management
Dec 4: 1:00 p.m.

Midterms and Exams: What to Expect and How to Prepare

Dec 5: 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Winter Safety, Preparedness, and Fun!

Dec 5: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Managing Holiday Stress Dec 5: 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Email Psychology.Clinic@uregina.ca to register

Chem & Lab Safety Workshops

Dec 9: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (complete online training first)

Biosafety Workshops

Nov 26: 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Dec 11: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

(complete Chem/Lab Safety and online training first)

Minerva Canada Case Study Competition

Submissions due Dec 20

University Closure: Dec 25 to Jan 1 inclusive.

Engineering is also closed Dec 24.

Other departments & faculties may be closed Dec 24 also.

Contacts:

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

Emergency Services:

911

Engineering Health & Safety Coordinator:

Engg.Safety@uregina.ca

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

Resources:

Mental Wellness Hub

Support and resources for students

Togetherall

24/7 anonymous online peer support community

Student Wellness Centre

Primary health care and mental health support (appts required) PT 119

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator

Miranda Tarnes, RC 251

Coordinator, Respectful University Services Kayla Stefan, RC 251 **First aid kits** are crucial for handling minor injuries and stabilizing more serious ones until professional help arrives. Knowing where to find these kits can make a huge difference when seconds count.

Within our faculty, kits can be found in most labs. Some of the larger shared student offices have a first aid kit as well. Likewise, the Faculty General Office ED 409 has a kit, and one is also available in the Faculty Safety Coordinator's office, ED 412. Calling Protective Services is always an option or stop by RI 120, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you do use a first aid kit on campus, help yourself to whatever is needed! Don't be shy. You don't need first aid training to use the supplies. But **please let someone know** (contact your supervisor or Engg.Safety@uregina.ca). You won't get in trouble for the incident, or for using the kit. We just need to make sure you are OK and will replace any supplies that were used.

Need a kit for your home or vehicle? Many low-cost options can be found at Walmart and Amazon. Many pharmacies carry them as well. Higher-quality kits can be found at St. John Ambulance, Canadian Red Cross eShop, J&T First Aid Consulting, HBI Office Plus, and Grainger-Canada.



Resources:

What should be in a first aid kit?

10 Basic First Aid Training
Tips

Canadian Red Cross First Aid Booklet

Canadian Red Cross First Aid App

Safety Legislation: What is the Saskatchewan Employment Act? In our previous newsletter, we mentioned that in Canada, Acts are laws made by parliament or the legislature. Acts are legally binding and enforceable. An important example that current and future engineers should be familiar with is the Saskatchewan Employment Act (SEA). The SEA includes information about employment standards, as well as workplace rights and responsibilities for Saskatchewan employers and employees (and by extension, graduate students). There are nine parts of the SEA, however the most important to you (as students, employees, future engineers and future supervisors) will be Part II: Employment Standards, Part III: Occupational Health and Safety, Part V: Radiation Health and Safety (for some of you), and Part VI: Labour Relations.

For highlights of the SEA, answers to common questions and webinars, you can visit the <u>Government of Saskatchewan</u> web page. WorkSafe Saskatchewan also has a new app called <u>Foundational Pillars</u>, where you can access Saskatchewan legislation and highlights related to Management and Leadership, Hazard Assessment, Practices and Procedures, Training, Inspections, Investigations, and Emergency Response. **All students are encouraged to visit the app, the Saskatchewan Government webpage, and the SEA itself, particularly Part III.** What legal requirements apply to you, based on your role at the university and possible employment? How will those responsibilities change when you are a practicing engineer and supervising the work of others?

Flu and Covid Vaccines: It's Not Too Late! As flu season arrives and COVID remains a concern, it is essential for students to understand the importance of vaccinations. Flu and COVID vaccines not only protect your individual health but also support campus-wide safety, helping students stay healthy, focused on their studies, and engaged in campus life.

Keep in mind that all students are vulnerable to illness. You are often surrounded by peers in classrooms, libraries, dorms and social settings, where infectious diseases can spread quickly. Illness can force students to miss classes, exams, or project deadlines, impacting your grades and academic performance. Even a mild case of the flu or COVID can take a week or more to recover from (and let's be honest, it is definitely not enjoyable).

Flu and COVID can lead to serious illness and even hospitalizations in some individuals. Vaccination significantly reduces the risk of contracting these illnesses, and more importantly, reduces the likelihood of developing severe symptoms or complications if you do get sick. Keep in mind that vaccination doesn't just protect you, but helps safeguard those around you. By getting vaccinated, you also reduce the likelihood of spreading flu or COVID to others, including classmates, professors and staff who may be more vulnerable to serious illness.

The flu virus changes each year, and COVID continues to evolve! Vaccines are regularly updated to better protect against the most recent and common strains. Even if you have been vaccinated in the past, getting the latest update can provide better protection against new variants.



Want to learn more? Visit <u>vaccines411.ca</u> for more information about flu/COVID vaccines, common misconceptions, vaccine safety (and many other important vaccines as well!)

Additional information about flu, COVID, and active respiratory outbreaks is available at www.4flu.ca.

In the mood for some extra cash? **Test your**"Flu I.Q." for a chance to win a \$100 gift

card! You can enter once daily. The draw will
be made on Jan 10/25. Good luck!

Unfortunately, there are no additional on-campus flu and COVID vaccine clinics planned. However, once you are ready to make arrangements, visit www.4flu.ca. There you will find the walk-in clinic listings for Regina and surrounding areas, or you can book an appointment for an upcoming Saskatchewan Health Authority vaccine clinic. You can book online or by phone. This web page also has details of all local pharmacies that are offering flu vaccines, COVID vaccines, or both.



Safety Reminders for Undergraduate Students!

New and returning students: Complete or renew the **Engineering Safety Orientation** on UR Courses as soon as possible. It has helpful information for your studies at the UofR, and must be renewed every year. It is required for access to our undergrad labs and workshop.

New students (including faculty transfers and readmitted students): you also require **WHMIS** training. If admitted for Spring/Summer or Fall 2024, you must complete WHMIS on UR Courses before the next registration time ticket. Otherwise, a registration hold is placed on your account. When you finish WHMIS, make sure you download your certificate – this will notify us of your completion, and we'll remove the hold at that time (within 1-2 business days).



Frequently Asked Question: "I completed WHMIS for Chem 104. Can I use that certificate? Or the WHMIS certificate I earned at my job?"

Answer: Unfortunately, no. You need to complete the "Undergrad Mandatory WHMIS" course from Engineering.

Why??? This has to do with the accreditation of our Engineering programs. We must have control of the training content and confidence in the quiz results. Our quiz has features that help discourage cheating and googling of answers.

Capstone students: If your project has the potential to improve workplace health and safety, you are eligible for our faculty's Safe Design Award. Please contact Engg.Safety@uregina.ca with your project details whenever you are ready. Capstone students are also reminded to renew WHMIS on UR Courses this semester (for ENIN 400, your Chemical & Lab Safety training included WHMIS). Additional safety training might be needed if your project requires research lab access. Contact Engg.Safety@uregina.ca if this might apply to you.

Chemical Disposal Tips: If you are doing a capstone project in one of our research labs or working as a research assistant, you may have questions about how to properly dispose of their chemical waste. Health & Safety's "What to Do with Chemical Waste" poster covers the basics, but here are some tips:

- 1. Make sure your waste is in a suitable container from the very beginning. It must be puncture-proof, no cracks/leaks, and be <u>chemically compatible</u> with the waste. When choosing a container, also consider the volume of waste you will actually generate. Use only the smallest size needed, as disposal costs depend partially on container size. Consider how heavy the container will be when filled please don't prepare something that could cause injuries when lifting. Keep in mind that if the waste is a flammable liquid, containers ≥4L must be stored in a flammable cabinet. Contact <u>Engg.Safety@uregina.ca</u> or <u>UR.Stores@uregina.ca</u> if you need advice.
- 2. The container must also be properly <u>labeled</u> from the beginning. The red and white waste labels are available for free from the UR Stores front desk at RI 110. Include the hazard classifications, chemical full name (no acronyms), percentage (for mixtures), supervisor name, and waste location. For the account name, you can write "Engineering".
- 3. Arrange disposal when your container is **75% full** (see below). You can arrange disposal of partially filled containers if you will no longer be generating that type of waste. Make sure the labels are complete, containers are intact (no cracks/leaks), and container exteriors are clean before arranging.
- 4. The Health & Safety poster mentions "Waste Wednesday", however this is not an option for most Engineering labs. Instead, complete the Hazardous Waste Disposal Form and submit to Engg.Safety@uregina.ca (not Health.Safety@uregina.ca). Please also send a photo of the waste to show its location in the lab. The Faculty Safety Coordinator will review your request and then package items for labour crew pickup. The labour crew will then transport items to UR Stores for disposal.



| Waste Disposal Request Form | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|-----------|
| # | Name of chemical | Percentage in container | Quantity (volume/weight of container) | Hazard Class (acid, base, flammable etc) | CAS# |
| 1 8 | EXAMPLE: Hydrochloric acid/Water | 30:70 | 4L bottle | acidic | 7647-01-0 |
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