

FALL
2010



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY –
PART OF THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

EHS Report

Disaster drill planned for October 27th

A number of Western employees will participate in a disaster drill on Wednesday, October 27th. The drill will simulate an emergency response to an earthquake, including exercises for damage assessment and triage areas.

The drill will include a test of the Western Alert emergency messaging system. WWU will provide Western Alert information via:

- Your e-mail
- A text message to your cell phone, if subscribed (see below)
- The following websites:
 - ◊ The university's emergency communication webpage at www.emergency.wvu.edu
 - ◊ The WWU homepage at www.wvu.edu

You are encouraged to participate on some level during the October 27th drill, even if you just **drop, cover and hold**. Perhaps take a few minutes to think about what you would do if this earthquake were real and not a drill. Consider this your opportunity to evaluate your personal and departmental preparedness and visit the [EHS website](#) for assistance.

A text message is one of the most reliable ways to quickly provide you with emergency information. You are strongly encouraged to provide your cell phone number to WWU. Even if users do not regularly text on their cell phones, most cell phones are capable of receiving text information. To subscribe, students and employees should go to the [web4u](#). Employees may also call Human Resources at x3774.

EHS awarded federal grant

EHS has been awarded a 2-year \$512,742 federal grant from the Department of Education relating to emergency management. EHS has formed a consortium called **Resilient Bellingham**, which includes the three public higher education institutions located in Bellingham - Western Washington University, Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College. The goals of the grant focus on the four phases of emergency management — prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The grant was awarded in October 2010.

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Free CPR/AED/first aid training

Free cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automatic external defibrillator (AED) and first aid classes are offered by EHS to faculty and staff. The classes help directors, chairs and department heads to comply with the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 296-800-15005) requiring that ***In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace, which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid***.

Compliance with the WAC is normally accomplished when a director, chair or department head assigns a ***designee*** and a ***back-up person*** to receive CPR/AED/first aid training or makes prior arrangements with a nearby unit to provide such support. Certification lasts for two years and must be maintained. You can sign up for classes online at [WWU's Training and Development Website](#) or contact John Kingsford-Smith at x7612 or john.kingsford-smith@wwu.edu

Planning to use an aircraft?

Are you planning to use an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial airline? Examples might include a privately-owned, rented or chartered airplane or helicopter. If so, the campus-wide policy titled ***Using Non-Owned Aircraft*** applies to you. The policy applies to almost every conceivable use of an aircraft on behalf of Western, except for flying on regularly scheduled commercial airline. Key elements of the policy include:

- Prior written authorization is required from Western's Risk Manager at x3065
- Senior officials must avoid traveling simultaneously on the same non-owned aircraft
- Non-owned aircraft are prohibited from operating to and from Western's campus

The entire policy is available for online viewing on the [University Policies](#) website.

Employee injuries from broken glass & sharps in trash

In past years, several of our custodians have been injured from broken glass placed directly in wastebaskets and other trash containers. Please remember to box or package broken glass, medical syringes, razor blades and other sharps so those emptying trash containers cannot be injured. Sharps contaminated with human blood, other potentially infectious human materials or biological agents (Biosafety Level 2 or above) require special disposal. Please contact EHS if you would like more information.