**Laboratory Safety Digest | January - June 2018**

### Lab Safety News:

- Bismark Tribune article about a lab fire at NDSU, possibly caused by a hot-plate malfunction. [Click here](#)

- NY Times article about a chemistry demonstration that resulted in several injured tenth graders. [Click here](#)

### Iowa State University Environmental Health and Safety:

- If you have had an interaction with EH&S this year, please take our Customer Satisfaction Survey. [https://survey.ehs.iastate.edu/GeneralSurvey](https://survey.ehs.iastate.edu/GeneralSurvey)

- Did you miss the 2nd annual Lab Safety Partnership Forum? Check out the meeting minutes. [https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/laboratory/laboratory-safety-partnership/meeting-minutes](https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/laboratory/laboratory-safety-partnership/meeting-minutes)

- Moving or repairing your biosafety cabinet? Planning to send a biosafety cabinet you no longer need to ISU Surplus? Don’t forget to contact EH&S first. Find out more here: [https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/biological/microbial/biosafety-cabinets](https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/biological/microbial/biosafety-cabinets)

### Featurring:

**Give us a brief overview of your background / journey to ISU.**

Life at Iowa State University was made possible with the acceptance as a spousal hire position in mechanical engineering as a laboratory coordinator. Originally I was split between labs as a teaching lab coordinator. I have finally honed in on two labs: Heat Transfer ME436 and Fluids ME335. Early in 2017, Dr. Hays charged me to lead the safety program with extensive help from EH&S. We are now starting our second year of implementing a more comprehensive program that meets the needs of both research and teaching. We hope to have this program fully in place by the end of spring 2018 semester.

**In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge to achieving high safety awareness and performance in an academic setting?**

Our highest concern is the rapid turnover of students and the introduction of more sensitive equipment in our labs.

**What are your goals as the DLSC for the mechanical engineering department?**

Immediate goals are to be able to spot check and see an SOP, SDS, and lab personnel training in areas that deal with the workings of that lab.

**What do you do at EH&S?**

I perform fire safety inspections of new and existing buildings, help manage the fire extinguisher program, assist with fire and life safety plans for new construction, conduct training, maintain the AEDs and emergency signage, and help organize outreach events. Our main goal is to prevent unwanted fires, keep people safe, and minimize the damage when fires occur.

**How long have you worked at EH&S?**

If you count my time as a student, somewhere around seven years.

**What is your background/describe your journey to EH&S.**

I started here as a student working on fire extinguishers - my major was Political Science, of all things. My senior year I took on more responsibility to keep the extinguisher program running smoothly while they looked for a replacement for a vacancy. I liked the work and was surprised how much went into fire safety beyond extinguishers; I found that understanding the regulations and fire safety theory was in my wheelhouse. They filled the vacancy, but kept me on after graduation and it turned into a full-time position. As they say, the rest is history.

**Describe a rewarding or memorable experience you have had at EH&S?**

The most rewarding part of my job is when I find a solution that allows someone to do what they want without compromising safety. The codes and regulations are as complicated as the research and projects, so there is plenty of opportunity to keep everyone happy if you know how to navigate through it.

**Give us a fun fact about you.**

I’m an avid Formula One racing fan, which is rare in the US. It’s kind of the motorsports equivalent of being a big international soccer fan in the US.