

The Safety Net

Eastern Virginia Medical School's Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter
https://myportal.evms.edu/research/safety/environmental_health_and_safety

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Special Interest Articles:

- SteraMist Disinfection Services
- Fit Test Fee Changes
- Fire Prevention Week

Individual Highlights:

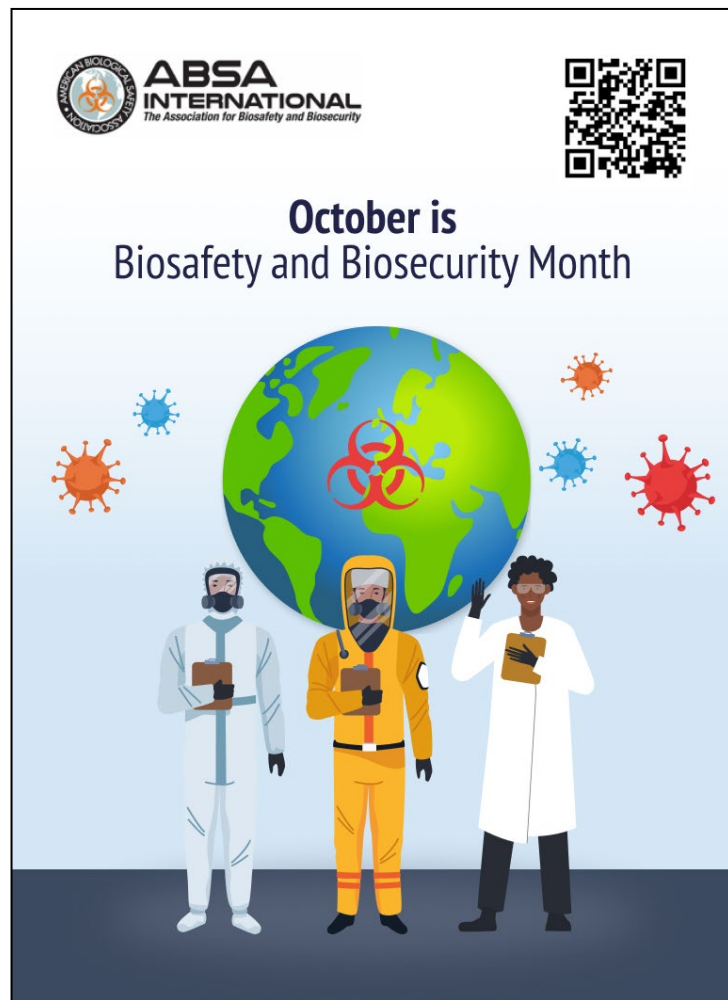
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October is ABSA National Biosafety Month

ABSA International is proud to announce the 10th anniversary of Biosafety and Biosecurity Month in October 2023.

Rather than a theme for 2023, ABSA would like to bring Biosafety and Biosecurity Month back to the core components of ethical research, transparency, training, engagement, and stewardship of biosafety and biosecurity.

Use this month to shine the spotlight on training ideas, stewardship and engagement, how to foster positive relationships with the research community, or supporting responsible and ethical research through our profession.



SteraMist Disinfection Services

EVMS EH&S has a TOMI™ SteraMist™ system for all of EVMS's surface decontamination needs. The system was developed by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) after the 2001 anthrax attacks, and the technology was classified until 2009. The BIT™ (Binary Ionization Technology) process works by converting hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) into a hydroxyl radical. It takes a 7.8% H₂O₂ solution and passes it through a cold plasma arc to change the molecules into free radicals that are about 2 microns in size and get a very quick six log kill. The product is safe, easy to use and leaves no by product, residue or noxious vapors; and it does not rust or corrode any equipment due to the low concentration of H₂O₂ used. No wipe, no rinse, non-corrosive and is a visible fog which disperses as a gas. Spaces are safe to enter once the hydroxyl radical is below 1 ppm.



To schedule the decontamination of your equipment or room, call (446-5798) or email [EH&S](#).

Fit Test Fee Changes

EH&S is not funded for the supplies or other costs associated with performing this service, thus cost-recovery is necessary. Beginning **April 01, 2024**, the respirator fit testing cost will be increased to **\$10.00** per person. This reflects the rising costs of materials, supplies and equipment maintenance that are used for this service.

Be aware, EH&S will charge departments for “no show” appointments and “turn away” tests. OSHA requires men to be clean shaven in order to wear a respirator and all to be medically cleared before being fit tested. Therefore, students and employees will be turned away when arriving for their fit test appointment if (1) they arrive with facial hair and/or (2) if their prerequisites are not complete. Fit test prerequisites are the Respiratory Protection training course located on the [BioRAFT](#) site **and** the Medical Questionnaire completed and cleared by Occupational Health.

We encourage you to plan for this increase in the upcoming budget cycle. If you have any questions about the EVMS Respiratory Protection Program, please contact Kristi Olivar at 446-7928.

2023 Fire Prevention Week

In 1925 President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. It commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Burning over 2,000 acres of land, it killed 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, and destroyed more than 17,400 structures. During Fire Prevention Week children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in the case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has designated this year's Fire Prevention Week to be October 7-13, 2023. This year's campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU," works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking.

"Cook with Caution":

1. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
2. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
3. If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
4. Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.
5. Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

For more information about Fire Prevention week please visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>.



Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?
Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.

 **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™**

Ask the S.O.B.

Q: Dear S.O.B.,

I've been told that I have to be fit tested for an N95 respirator. I am really, really busy. Can I just drop in and get the test done?

-Bizy Bodie

A: Dear Bizy,

Sorry, no. You must make an appointment for a fit test. Keep in mind, before you have your fit test you must:

- Complete Respiratory Protection training on [BioRAFT](#)
- Complete and submit the OSHA Medical Questionnaire:
http://www.evms.edu/about_evms/administrative_offices/occupational_health/osha_medical_questionnaire/
- Be given a clearance for fit testing from EVMS Occupational Health
- Schedule a respirator fit test: <https://evmsfittest.as.me/>

If you have questions regarding respiratory fit testing, contact [EH&S](#). If you have a question for the S.O.B., send an email to finlayba@evms.edu.



Safety Office Boy to the rescue!

Notes from the Office

EH&S Training Courses

Course	Date/Time	Location
Chemical Hygiene Plan	October 19, 2023 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lewis Hall 2162
	November 16, 2023 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lewis Hall 2162
	December 14, 2023 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lewis Hall 2162
Radiation Safety in the Laboratory	Contact EH&S	
Biosafety in the Laboratory Biological Materials Shipping Autoclave Safety Training OHSP Training Respiratory Protection	Available on BioRAFT	https://evms.bioraft.com/
HAZCOM Bloodborne Pathogens Biological Materials Shipping (Clinical)	Available on Blackboard	http://evms.blackboard.com/