

STFX OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY**NEWSLETTER****WELCOME**

Welcome to the first edition of the StFX OHS Newsletter! Safety at StFX is a shared responsibility, and this newsletter is designed to connect all faculty and staff in our common goal: keeping our campus community safe and healthy. Together, we can maintain a proactive environment where everyone feels secure. Your feedback is most welcome on the content of this edition or for topics you'd like included in future editions.

INSIDE

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It's Safety and Health Week



Safety and Health Week, which takes place this year from May 4-9, is an ideal time for employers, employees, partners, and the public to focus on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home, and in the community.

You are invited to join the following free, live, online sessions to mark Safety and Health Week:

Plain Language: Clear, Simple and Safe

All workers have the right to know how to do their job safely. When they can't understand safe work procedures or policies, they can't make informed decisions. This gap puts them at risk of harming themselves or others.

By using plain language, you make sure everyone understands how to follow instructions or report a hazard to stay healthy and safe on the job. In this session, we cover the basics, as well as share practical examples so you can put plain language into action at your workplace.

Live French audio interpretation available.

Space is limited.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

12 Noon|45 minutes

Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6VtkLRDMQGYAjIEjzH5mEA#/registration

Indigenous Inclusion: An Approach for Cultural Safety and Belonging

Canada is on a journey of Truth and Reconciliation, with many workplaces, communities and citizens asking how we can come together to learn from our past and contribute towards change in ways that respect the diversity of Indigenous peoples and support their social determinants of health and cultural safety.

This session will offer participants insights and meaningful ways that we can come together across cultures to engage and co-create healthier and culturally safe spaces, for a future where we all feel valued and have a sense of belonging.

Live French audio interpretation available.

Space is limited.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

2:30 pm|45 minutes

Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_S8-EhYj0SC28IZKDuLdUWA#/registration

Should I tell someone?



REPORT AN INCIDENT OR NEAR MISS

Report all injury or damage incidents to your supervisor immediately and before leaving work for the day. Your wellbeing and getting the assistance you need is the first priority. When you report an incident, we have an opportunity to review what happened, how and why it happened, and to identify the root cause in order to prevent similar incidents from occurring.

Near misses are incidents that do not cause injury or damage, but under slightly different circumstances could cause injury or damage. It's important to report all near misses to identify areas of improvement to help prevent a similar incident from occurring.

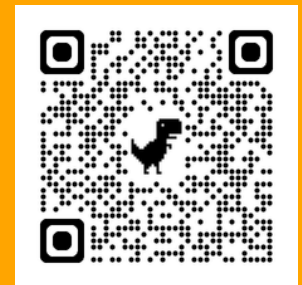


Online Reporting
QR Code
(anonymous
option)

REPORT A HAZARD OR CONCERN

You should report any actual or potential health and safety hazards or concerns immediately to your supervisor. You do not need to wait for an inspection or for an injury to occur. In fact, health and safety legislation requires workers to report hazards to their supervisor. If your supervisor does not or cannot respond, the issue should be brought to your JOHSC.

The hazard reporting process allows workers to report hazardous conditions or practices as they notice them. This procedure allows for prompt reporting, and steps can be taken to control the hazards without waiting for the next round of regular inspections.



Online Reporting
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Yes, please tell your supervisor.

Reporting is the first step in making our workplace safe!

Construction Site Safety

With Convocation wrapped up, project season is well underway around campus. You will have noticed there are several project worksites on campus, including the construction of Dahdaleh Hall and renovations to Morrison Hall, Mockler Hall and FX Hall to name a few. Signage and measures are in place to protect people around the sites.



It's important that vehicles and pedestrians slow down and follow the signage in place for their own safety and the safety of workers on the sites. This is a very busy time for Facilities Management and their contractors, who are trying to get a lot of work done before the end of August, and you are asked to be cognizant of your surroundings and the activity on the sites.



Report any concerns to your supervisor

Battery Recycling

Disposing of batteries into landfills poses significant fire safety and environmental hazards. Thankfully, batteries can be recycled or disposed of in a safe manner and, to do our part, StFX has a program in place for their safe collection. All batteries on campus should be recycled through campus programs. For most batteries, academic and administration departments on campus can request a collection box and poster from the Facilities Management Service Desk at 902 867 2149 or fmservicedesk@stfx.ca . The box should be displayed in a visible location as determined by the department. It is important to note that:

- For safety reasons some batteries must be taped at the terminal, and/or bagged. [Charts](#) will be present at all box locations, that give battery specific information.
- Batteries (not including automotive/wet cell) can be recycled by depositing them in the box.
- Bags come with the boxes. Departments will have to supply tape at the disposal site.
- StFX issued employee mobile phones will not be accepted as they must go to ITS to be wiped for re-issue or recycling.
- Vapes cannot be deposited in the battery recycling boxes.
- Do not put damaged, defective or recalled batteries in the boxes.

Once the box is full (no more than 30 kg), administrators can arrange for collection and replacement of the box through FM by submitting a request to fmservice_desk@stfx.ca . The contents of the boxes will be recycled by [Call2Recycle](#).

All batteries, not included in the battery box program, used in labs or facilities operations must be recycled through the hazardous waste program or local enviro-depot operations.

For more information on battery safety, visit [RecycleYourBatteries.ca/battery-safety/](https://www.RecycleYourBatteries.ca/battery-safety/).



Electrical Safety

During the workplace inspections recently done on campus, there were some recurring practices that should be noted:

Avoid using extension cords

Use of extension cords should be avoided. Be sure to check the owner's manual before using them for electrical appliances or equipment to see if their use is permitted by the manufacturer. All electrical cords and plugs must be in good condition. Never use equipment with frayed cords or exposed wires; if discovered, immediately take the equipment out of service and have it repaired or replaced. When you must use extension cords, make sure they are rated for the task at hand. [Click here for some extension cord safety tips.](#)



Do not overload outlets.

Some buildings have limited outlets. If you require extra power sources in your workspace, please contact Facilities Management. They will be able to guide you on the best options, depending on your space and equipment being used.

Report exposed wiring.

All electrical wall outlets and overhead light fixtures must be covered and have no exposed wiring. Exposed wiring should be reported to Facilities Management.

Keep electrical panels clear.

Never block electrical panels with equipment or materials. Immediate access to these panels may be needed by maintenance or emergency responders. Always maintain at least a 36-inch unobstructed pathway leading to electrical panels.



Update on Training

WHMIS

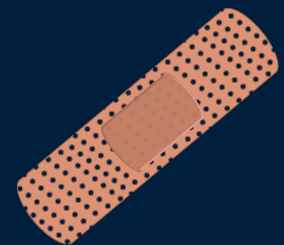
Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System is a Canadian hazard communication program. The purpose of WHMIS is to make sure that you, your supervisor and the university have the information needed to work safely with the hazardous materials at your workplace. The materials that are included in WHMIS are called hazardous products. A hazardous product is any product that meets the criteria for WHMIS hazard classes.



- All StFX employees are expected to take online WHMIS training every five years.
- Onsite WHMIS training and review specific to your department will be provided by your supervisor.

FIRST AID ATTENDANTS

A workplace first aid attendant is a designated, certified employee who is responsible for providing immediate, temporary care to injured or ill staff, students or visitors on campus. This important role is crucial in ensuring safety compliance and mitigating injuries before professional medical services arrive.



Let your supervisor know if you are interested in taking the training and becoming an attendant. Training will be arranged by OHS and will take place on campus in May and June.

See your Supervisor to sign up

Thank you for taking the time to read the inaugural StFX OHS Newsletter. Your feedback on this edition or ideas for future editions are most welcome.



Have a Safe Spring!

Some OHS Resource Links

- [Nova Scotia Health and Safety Branch](#)
- [NOVA Safe](#)
- [Nova Scotia Workers Compensation](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety](#)
- [Threads of Life](#)
- [StFX OHS Right to Know Bulletin Board](#)