

The purpose of this newsletter is to unite all the UNBC campus's (Prince George, Prince Rupert, Terrace, Gitwinksihlkw, Quesnel, Likely, Ft St John) and grow our UNBC Community's Safety Culture together by regularly communicating important Safety information. UNBC's mission is to Ignite, Inspire, and Lead change.

Communication lies at the heart of safety. When we listen, understand, and collaborate, we can create effective systems to protect us from harm. Whether it's a complex project, a simple task, or an adventurous journey, planning and awareness pave the way for smooth execution.

Remember, safety isn't just about avoiding accidents; it's about looking out for one another. Whether it's a colleague, a fellow student, a family member, or a stranger, extending a helping hand can make all the difference.

So, let's weave our intentions into action, ensuring that each step is deliberate, each tool handled with care, and each decision made with foresight, one thoughtful choice at a time.

## Five major reasons why Safety is important for our UNBC community.

- 1. Protection of Lives: Safety** measures prevent accidents and protect human lives. Whether at work, home, or in public spaces, safety protocols reduce the risk of injuries and fatalities.
- 2. Employee Well-Being:** Prioritizing safety in workplaces ensures a happy and healthy workforce. It reduces lost time due to accidents and absenteeism, ultimately improving productivity.
- 3. Legal Compliance:** Safety is not just a good practice; it's the law. Non-compliance can lead to fines, imprisonment, or even the shutdown of a business by regulatory bodies.
- 4. Economic Benefits:** Implementing safety measures saves money. It reduces expenses related to compensation, hospital bills, and other accident-related costs. Additionally, it enhances any company's image and reputation, attracting competent staff and improving competitive advantage.
- 5. Avoiding Damage:** Safety helps prevent damage to property and equipment, ensuring business continuity.

***In the month of April there are several Safety programs & initiatives taking place throughout many organizations. Here are a couple to share with our UNBC Community.***

### **Distracted Driving Awareness Month**

– Distractions can compromise the safety of the driver, passengers, pedestrians, and people in other vehicles. To our UNBC Community, please DO NOT text, talk on the phone without a hands-free device. Don't adjust your entertainment or Navigation Systems, or use other

electronic devices (tablets, GPS, Infotainment items) while driving.

### **National Youth Sports Safety Month**

– STOP Sports injuries. Youth sports participation is a critically important part of our communities. It promotes health and leadership benefits, helps prevent chronic diseases and provides protective factors for reducing risky behaviors. Sports injuries are the enemy of participation. The center of disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has described youth injuries an epidemic with 3.5 million of these injuries occur annually across North America. With one in three participants seeking

medical attention for a sports-related injury, resulting in loss sports and school time. The good news: according to the CDC more than 50 percent of these injuries are preventable.

### **April 6 National Walking Day**

– Safe Walking Tips: Stay alert – avoid cell phone use and wearing earbuds, Heads up, cross the street at cross walks, Follow the rules of the road, obeying all the traffic signs and signals, Watch for cars entering or exiting driveways or backing up in parking lots. Wear bright and/or reflective clothing and use a flashlight at night. Pedestrian Safety is a Shared Responsibility.

**April 28 Workers Memorial Day (WorksafeBC)** - The National Day of Mourning is observed annually in Canada on April 28. On this day, we remember and honor those who have lost their lives, suffered injuries, or experienced illness due to work-related incidents or tragedies. It serves as a solemn reminder of the importance of workplace safety and our collective commitment to prevent further injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

April 28th is recognized across the country; the Canadian flag flies at half-mast on Parliament Hill and federal government buildings, and various observances take place across the country. At 11:00 am on April 28, many organizations, employees, communities, and individuals observe a moment of silence to honor those affected by workplace tragedies. Let us continue to prioritize health and safety in the workplace and work towards preventing further loss of life and injuries.

In 2021 there were 1,081 workplace fatalities recorded in Canada, with 1,009 male workers and 72 female workers. Among these deaths were 18 young workers aged 15-24. Additionally, there were 277,217 accepted claims for lost time due to work-related injuries or diseases, including 34,548 from workers aged 15-24. These numbers highlight the impact on lives and families affected by workplace incidents. Let us honor their memory and strive for safer workplaces.

Each month the Childcare completes a fire drill. The little ones walk to the Keyoh building on cold days. Security conducts a building sweep. Once declared Safe, the children head back



What has Safety been up to? The Chemical Safety Officer, Chemistry Lab Technician and Manager of OHS bulked organic liquid waste generated from teaching and research labs on campus. This is done by slowly mixing compatible liquids in a pail, monitoring for any temperature changes or reactions. The mixture is then transferred to a large drum, ready for transportation off site for safe disposal.

## Positive Observations

*Promoting a Safety Conscious Culture for our UNBC Community*

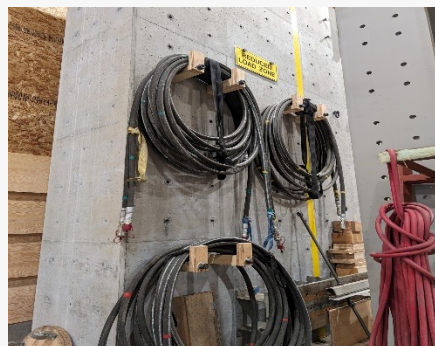
### Fun Fact!

There are more windows at the PG UNBC than students enrolled

Excellent pylon placement so we don't hit the potholes with our vehicles



Excellent storage of the hydraulic hoses at the WILR Building.



If you see any positive safety initiatives, please photograph them, and send the pictures to [safety@unbc.ca](mailto:safety@unbc.ca)

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**Working together for safety**

*We would like to thank everyone for participating in our growing Safety Community at UNBC!*



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