

Safety News @ Queen's

Environmental Health & Safety March 2026

Welcome to this edition of Safety News at Queen's, a source for updates, insights, and resources to help keep our university community safe and thriving. Whether you're working in labs, offices, classrooms, behind the scenes or out in the field, our mission is to support your safety through proactive measures and guidance.

Top Safety Priorities:



When the Fire Alarm Sounds, Exit Immediately

- Fire alarms are life-safety warnings and must always be taken seriously. When an alarm sounds, leave the building right away.
- Fires can spread quickly, and smoke can make conditions dangerous within seconds. Prompt evacuation helps protect you, and allows emergency responders to do their jobs.

Wearing headphones/earbuds when a fire alarm is activated can put you at a higher risk (reduced awareness & delayed reaction time). If you choose to wear headphones:

- Avoid working alone
- Keep headphone volume to a moderate level
- If you notice alarms or strobe lights, remove headphones **immediately** and proceed to the closest exit.

Training Reminders



Upcoming and ongoing opportunities:

- **Supervisor Health & Safety Training** — Look to our website or email safety@queensu.ca
- **First Aid & CPR C Training** — Spring course dates are open for registration for Staff, Faculty and Graduate Students.
- **WHMIS** — Please ensure your WHMIS training is current. Enroll for the Full or Refresher on OnQ.

JHSC Recognition & Updates



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to **Nancy Petri** for her more than 20 years of dedicated service to the Libraries Joint Health and Safety Committee. Nancy's steady leadership, commitment to a safer workplace, and unwavering support of JHSC initiatives have made a lasting impact on our community. Thank you, Nancy, for your exceptional contributions and for helping foster a safer, healthier environment for everyone.

Updates

- JHSC's with vacant positions: Admin Services, Residence Services, Faculty of Arts & Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Education, Isabel Bader Centre. **Show interest by contacting your union or contact EHS.**
- JHSC Certification is available through PSHSA (email safety@queensu.ca for details).



Seasonal Reminders for Spring

Spring's freeze-thaw cycle can create quick changing hazards around campus. Keep an eye out for: melting ice & snow forming slippery patches - pooling water or minor flooding - ceiling leaks & runoff from roofs.

If you notice unsafe conditions, please report it right away. Report concerns here: PPS/FIXIT 613-533-6757 between 8am-4pm.

Ergonomics Program – Resumes



Queen's Environmental Health & Safety has partnered with the Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA), a fully qualified ergonomic assessment provider, to offer standard office ergonomic assessments on campus.

What a Standard Assessment Includes:

- Review of workstation components (computer, chair, desk, keyboard)
- Analysis of ergonomic risk factors
- A written report with findings and recommendations

Cost: \$300.00 + HST per standard office assessment (valid chart field required)

Additional Notes:

- More complex assessments (e.g., return-to-work or accommodation cases) will be scheduled separately and quoted individually.
- To support effective implementation and ensure proper follow-up, all ergonomic assessments must be booked in coordination with the employer's manager or supervisor as a valid chart field for billing is required.

For steps to register please visit: <https://www.queensu.ca/risk/safety/general/ergonomics>

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Steacy Tibbutt c/o safety@queensu.ca.



Respecting Parking Enforcement

Parking Enforcement Officers play an important role in keeping our campus safe and accessible. As a reminder, harassment, intimidation, or disrespectful behaviour toward any employee is strictly prohibited under Queen's Harassment and Discrimination Prevention and Response Policy.

Queen's is committed to a respectful workplace and provides clear processes for reporting concerns, including confidential and anonymous options.

We ask all community members to support a safe and civil environment so Parking Enforcement Officers—and everyone on campus—can perform their duties without fear of harassment.

OCASP Reminder



Reminder of Off-Campus Activity Safety Policy Requirement and the Safe Travel Activity Registration Tool (START)

Queen's University prioritizes the health and safety of all participants in off-campus activities. The Queen's Off-Campus Activity Safety Policy (OCASP) offers essential guidance to the campus community in planning and undertaking these activities safely. To assist with this, the Safe Travel Activity Registration Tool (START) is available for quick and straightforward registration of university-sanctioned off-campus activities:

- For low-risk activities: START allows students, faculty, and staff to easily register their plans.
- For higher-risk activities: START facilitates the creation of detailed safety planning records.
- Emergency support: Registration in START helps the university quickly identify and assist participants if emergencies arise.

Learn more about the updated OCASP and its key revisions, as well as related tools and resources on the OCASP website.

Welcoming New Members to the EHS Team

Dan Nelson has joined as our new Fire Safety Coordinator, bringing valuable experience in fire prevention and emergency preparedness. His expertise will strengthen our ongoing efforts to support a safe campus environment.

Vanessa (Van) Traynor has joined as the Fire Alarm and Fire Pump Testing Assistant. Van brings strong technical skills and a collaborative approach, and we are excited to have her on board.

Please join us in welcoming both Dan and Van to Queen's EHS.

Upcoming Dates

March 17, 2026, St. Patrick's Day

April 7, 2026, World Health Day

April 3rd, 2026, Easter closure

April 29, 2026, International Noise Awareness Day

April 28, 2026, National Day of Mourning

For more news and updates, visit our website at www.queensu.ca/risk/safety

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Thank you for reading!