

Safety News @ Queen's

Environmental Health & Safety *April 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

Take the Stairs Safely



Stairs are part of our daily routines, but they're also one of the most common places for slips, trips, and falls.

One simple habit can make a big difference: **always use the handrail.**

When using stairs, take them one step at a time, avoid distractions like phones, and make sure your view of the steps is clear.

If you notice a loose handrail or damaged, icy or snow-covered steps, please use an alternate route and report the issue so it can be addressed promptly.

Training Reminders

Upcoming and Ongoing Opportunities

- **Safety Officer Training** — May 6 | REGISTER
- **JHSC New Members Orientation** — June 10 | REGISTER
- **JHSC Inspections Training** — June 18 | REGISTER
- **Supervisor Health & Safety** — May 14 | REGISTER
- **First Aid & CPR 'C'** — Spring dates are open | REGISTER
- **WHMIS2015** — Ensure your [WHMIS2015](#) training is up to date. The Refresher should to be taken every year!

Important SOP Updates & Reminders

Eyewash Training Videos & SOP

In response to discussions held at recent JHSC meetings, we are providing the following videos demonstrating the correct use of portable and stationary eyewash stations along with our [\(SOP-LAB-03\) Emergency Eyewash Stations and Safety Showers](#) for review.

Videos for Review:

- **Portable Eye Wash** - [Cederroth Eye Wash - English -\(2:34\)](#)
- **Stationary Eyewash** - [How to Use an Emergency Eyewash Station by Ally Safety \(3:38\)](#)

Recently Updated SOPs:

- [\(SOP-Fire-02\) Fire Extinguisher and Hose Cabinet Inspection](#)
- [\(SOP-Safety-09\) Foot Protection](#)

Annual Incident & Injury Report



Our annual report provides a clear picture of how we're doing—what's working well, where challenges remain, and where we're focusing our efforts moving forward.

The full report for 2025 is available now. For more information reach out to safety@queensu.ca

Camp Requirements & Minors



Many departments offer excellent summer programming for children. As the camp season approaches, it is important to become familiar with [Queen's Policies and Procedures for Activities Involving Minors](#).

If you are involved in planning or delivering camps, please review the information linked below.

- Protection of Minors Involved in University Camps, Programs & Activities Policy
- Establishing and Operating a Camp for Minors Policy
- Health and Safety Emergency Procedures for Camps
- Procedure for Hiring and Training of Camp Personnel
- Procedure for Supervision of Campers
- Procedure on Documentation and Privacy of Camp Records

Resources for Ergonomics



Queen's EH&S 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 (valid chart field required).

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)

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

Confined Space Assessments & Programming - Update

EH&S continues to work with Facilities to complete an inventory of Confined Spaces on campus, install appropriate signage, and to create a Confined Space Program.

“Confined space” means a fully or partially enclosed space, that is not both designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy, and in which atmospheric hazards may occur because of its construction, location or contents or because of work that is done in it.

If you encounter a space on campus which is not listed in our inventory and that you believe meets the criteria, notify your supervisor and/or the Department of Environmental Health & Safety to have a hazard assessment completed.

Upcoming Dates

April

April 29, 2026 — **International Noise Awareness Day**

April 28, 2026 — **National Day of Mourning**

April 28, 2026 — **Occupational Safety & Health Day**

May

May 2, 2026 — **Steps for Life**

May 1, 2025 — **Start of season for summer student contracts (approximate date)**

May 4-10, 2026 — **Mental Health Week**

May 18, 2026— **May long weekend closure**