

Safety News @ Queen's

Environmental Health & Safety

July 2026



Introducing CampusOptics

EH&S is launching a new platform to simplify safety management and improve access to critical information across Queen's Campus.

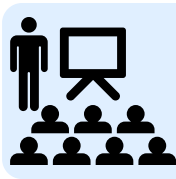
What CampusOptics Enables:

- Training Records
 - Reminders & Visibility for supervisors
 - Incident Reporting
 - Inspection Records
- Asset Management
 - SOP & Safety Documents
 - Fire Safety
 - Chemical Safety

COMING SOON: We're excited to launch **Training**, the first module in the new system, with a target release date of **January 2027**. This marks the beginning of an enhanced experience, with more features and opportunities to follow. Training sessions on the platform will be offered by EH&S closer to the launch.



Learn More
campusoptics.com



Training Opportunities

Training	Date	Sign-Up
Supervisor Health & Safety	Thursday, July 16 th	Enroll Here
Safety Officer	Wednesday, August 26th	Enroll Here
JHSC Certification	Ongoing	safety@queensu.ca
First Aid & CPR	• July 14-15th • August 17-18th	Enroll Here
WHMIS 2015	Ongoing	Enroll Here



Safety Tip!
Ensure your WHMIS2015 training is up to date. The Refresher should be taken every year!



New Modernized First Aid Program

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has launched significant updates to its First Aid Program, effective June 22, 2026. The changes are designed to improve the quality, consistency, and accessibility of workplace first aid training across Ontario.

Key updates include:

- **Alignment with national standards** through the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z1210:24 First Aid Training Standard.
- **Expanded access to training providers**, giving workers and employers more options for approved first aid training across the province.
- **New course names:** Emergency First Aid is now called **Basic First Aid**, and Standard First Aid is now called **Intermediate First Aid**. These remain equivalent to the certification levels required under Ontario Regulation 1101.
- **Greater flexibility for recertification**, allowing Intermediate First Aid certificate holders to recertify through any WSIB-approved provider.
- Continued recognition of workplace first aid certificates from across Canada, provided they meet the CSA standard.

Current first aid certificates issued before June 22, 2026, remain valid until their expiry date. Employers should review these changes and ensure future training is obtained through a WSIB-approved provider.

For more information, visit the WSIB First Aid Program webpage: <https://www.wsib.ca/en/firstaid>.

New Hire Orientation Checklist Reminder



Supervisors must complete the New Employee/Student Safety Orientation Checklist for all new staff and students within their first 2 weeks.



The completed checklist must be signed and kept on file, and the Departmental Safety office notified once orientation is complete.



[Download a copy of the checklist here](#)



New Hard Hat Regulations

Ontario Regulation 213/91 Construction Projects is undergoing a revision to the hard hat requirements which will take effect July 1, 2027.

Anyone going to a construction project will be required to follow this change. Please note that outdated hard hats are **NOT recyclable** and will need to be disposed as **REGULAR WASTE**



For more Information visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/910213/v23>



Lab Safety Reminders for Summer

Shorts? Skirts? The Real Question Is: Is Your Skin Protected?

During a recent laboratory inspection, a laboratory manager asked a simple question:

“Can people wear shorts in the lab during the summer? The temperatures can get pretty high when the HVAC isn’t keeping up.”

The answer was: **No.**

Then came the follow-up: ***“What about skirts?”***

That question prompted an important reminder. **Laboratory clothing requirements are not based on fashion — they are based on protection.**

A lab coat, even one that extends to the knee, may not cover the lower legs. If hazardous materials are spilled or splashed, any exposed skin is at risk. That's why clothing worn under a lab coat matters just as much as the lab coat itself. Our Standard Operating Procedure ([SOP-Lab-05, Section 6.4](#)) states:

Lab coats should extend to or slightly below the knee. Any exposed skin below the lab coat must be covered.

The takeaway is simple:



Wear clothing that fully covers your legs when your laboratory risk assessment requires protection from hazardous materials.



Wear closed-toe shoes.



Remember that laboratory attire should always be selected based on the hazards present—not the weather.

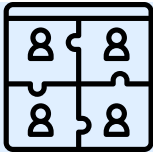
Summer temperatures can be uncomfortable, but safety should never be compromised. Dressing for the laboratory means dressing to protect yourself.



Safety Tip!

Help keep our campus safe by ensuring laboratory doors are **closed and locked when the space is not in use**. Securing labs helps prevent unauthorized access to hazardous materials, equipment, and research activities, while protecting the safety of everyone in the workplace. A quick check before you leave can make a big difference.

JHSC Membership Opportunities

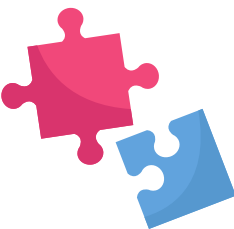


EH&S oversees Joint Health & Safety Committees in compliance with the **Occupational Health & Safety Act**.

These committees promote workplace safety awareness and help identify health & safety concerns for employer review. Across Queen’s University, 11 committees support a variety of workplace environments

We are looking for Worker and Management members to fill the filling vacant positions:

Committee	Vacant Positions
Administrative Services	1 non-unionized representative 1 901 Unit 2 representative 1 QUFA representative 1 management representative
Facilities	1 management representative
Residences	1 non-unionized representative 2 management representatives
Faculty of Arts & Science	1 CUPE 254 representative 1 non-unionized representative 1 management representative
Smith Faculty of Engineering	1 non-unionized representative 1 management representative
Faculty of Health Sciences	3 management representatives
Faculty of Education	1 901-1 representative 1 management representative
Family Medicine	1 management representative
Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts	1 901-2 representative 3 management representatives



Interested unionized employees should reach out to their unions for additional information and interested management or non-unionized members should contact Jennifer McKenzie (mckenzie.jennifer@queensu.ca).

Vacant positions can occur throughout the year, so if you are interested, and the relevant committee does not have a vacant position, we encourage you to reach out to your union or Jennifer McKenzie.

E-Bike/Scooter Use on Campus



A fire involving an electric bike on Queen's University campus, serves as a reminder of the potential fire hazard that the batteries in these devices pose. A malfunctioning charging system or a damaged battery can result in a fire. Fire involving these high-capacity batteries burns very hot and is very difficult to extinguish. Should a battery fire occur indoors, the ensuing structure fire could mean a significant or total loss of a building.

Students, staff and faculty are reminded that e-bikes/scooters are not permitted inside Queen's buildings regardless of whether they are plugged in or not. Required electric wheelchairs and mobility devices are exempt from this restriction.

In addition, many devices use lithium-ion batteries including devices used for research. Departments are reminded that when lithium-ion batteries are in use, it is the department's responsibility to ensure appropriate fire safety measures are in place. This includes having suitable firefighting equipment readily available, such as a steel bucket filled with sand, a fire containment bag, or other approved suppression materials. Staff should also be familiar with the location of nearby fire extinguishers and emergency equipment within their work area. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to our Fire Coordinator, daniel.nelson@queensu.ca.

**This restriction does not apply to required electric wheelchairs or other mobility devices.*

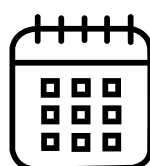


Battery Disposal

EH&S has been working with RPR Environmental, our hazardous waste supplier, on a new battery disposal program that will be ready for rollout this fall. The new program will be available to students and staff for studies and university generated batteries.

Departmental and research batteries can still be disposed through our [hazardous waste system](#). We have weekly service on campus. Please note that staff should not be taking personal batteries and disposing them in the University system, and should not be taking university batteries in their vehicles to dispose in the municipal system.

Upcoming Dates



July

- July 6 — [National Injury Prevention Day](#)
- July 24 — [International Self Care Day](#)
- July 19-25 — [National Drowning Prevention Week](#)

August

- August 12 — [Youth Day](#)
- August 20 — [World Mosquito Day](#)
- August 31 — [Overdose Awareness Day](#)

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