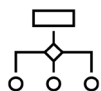


SAFETY NEWS @ QUEEN'S - SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK MAY 5 – 10, 2025

Spring is a season of renewal, making it the perfect time to re-engage with safety practices on campus. As the weather warms up and activities shift, take a moment to review the tips and updates in this newsletter. Whether you're refreshing your knowledge, preparing for summer work, or learning something new, your attention to safety makes a difference. Share this message with a colleague and keep the conversation going – **together, we keep Queen's safe for everyone.**

Safety and Health Week is May 5 – 10, 2025. Safety and Health Week is a national initiative aimed at raising awareness about the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home, and in the community. *Everyone deserves to go home without injury after their workday.* Read through the newsletter to learn what you can do to avoid injury and how to help keep your co-workers safe too.



Joint Health and Safety Committees – A Call for Members

The Department of Environmental Health & Safety is responsible for establishing and maintaining joint health and safety committees in accordance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act (OSHA). These committees help raise awareness of health and safety conditions in the workplace, as well as identify health and safety issues that need to be brought to the attention of the employer. **We are looking for worker and management members to fill vacant positions.** To accommodate the variety of workplaces there are 11 different committees for Queen's University. To learn more and to determine if there is a vacancy on the committee your department falls under, please visit the [Joint Health and Safety Committees webpage](#). Interested unionized employees should reach out to their unions for additional information. Interested management members should contact Dan Langham (dan.langham@queensu.ca).



Resources – New and Young Workers

During the spring and summer Queen's hires a large number of new employees each year. Many of these new employees and summer staff will be young or inexperienced, possibly starting their first job. Studies have shown that young and new workers have sustained 3 times more injuries compared to experienced workers. At Queen's University almost **30% of the incident reports received each year involve employees with less than 1 year of experience in the job.**

How can you reduce the potential for injury for these new and young workers?

- Every employee is required to complete [Safety Awareness training](#) at Queen's (including faculty, staff, casuals, student-staff).
- All new employees need an orientation. You may use the [Orientation checklist](#) as part of your process to ensure you cover all the necessary topics.
- Training is key – Remember this could be the first time the employee is performing this task, working with these materials and equipment, or first time in your building. *They will need more in-depth training and practice* before becoming proficient.
- Supervisors need to identify all hazards in the workplace and provide instruction on how to handle them. Encourage questions.
- Review and include these tips for training [WSPS-articles-getting safety across to young workers](#)
- Check out this resource [CCOHS - Young Workers](#)



Seasonal Information and Field Research

Working Around Roadways in Ontario

As we head into summer and the field research season begins, this is a reminder that if you are working in proximity to Ontario roadways you may need to have a traffic safety plan in place to comply with the requirements of the OHS and the Ministry of Transport's Ontario Traffic Manual – Book 7. Detailed information can be found in [SOP-Safety-22 – Traffic Safety Plans](#). If you are working around roadways outside of Ontario, there is the possibility that similar safety requirements exist. You should consult with the applicable government agency in the jurisdiction you are working in to learn more about what requirements might be in place.

Guidance for Travel to the United States

As with all travel, faculty, staff and students are reminded to thoroughly research and prepare for travel to the United States and to [register the travel in START as per the requirements to the Off-Campus Activity Safety Policy](#). If you are travelling in the near future you need to be aware of several recent changes related to entry requirements for travel to the U.S. Please review the [guidance for travel to US that is posted on the EHS website](#).



Resources for Lab Safety

New Laboratory Door Signage

EHS has created three customizable Hazard Door Sign Templates (1 hazard, 2 hazards, or 3 hazards). This door sign is to be used by all labs at Queen's University that use any of the following hazards: Biohazard, Radiation or Chemicals. Visit our website to find the new [Laboratory Door Signage](#) information page.

The Dangers of Improper Chemical Disposal

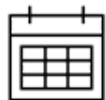
Improper and delayed disposal of chemicals poses serious risks to human health and the environment. Laboratories must follow strict disposal guidelines to prevent such hazards. Proper waste management, timely disposal, and adherence to environmental regulations are crucial in minimizing the risks associated with chemical waste. An important aspect of this program is the proper handling, storage [CHEMICAL STORAGE PROCEDURE](#), and disposal of all hazardous chemicals generated on campus ([Waste Disposal | Office of Risk and Safety Services](#)).



Figure 1. A waste bottle suspected to contain unstable PEROXIDES should be considered extremely dangerous

Remember that some chemicals classified as EXPLOSIVES cannot be transported by regular means. If you come across any of these please call EH&S immediately. Shock-sensitive compounds that are suspected to contain unstable PEROXIDES should be considered extremely dangerous and must be handled very carefully. To avoid the chance of an explosion, DO NOT attempt to open such bottles (i.e. dry ethers, dry picric acid, etc.) and call EH&S. Use caution when handling chemicals that can react dangerously to heat, shock, air, water, or other substances. It is very important to check the inventory and the expiration dates of chemicals in

your laboratory regularly. Potential explosives like organic peroxides and peroxides forming chemicals have a limited shelf life and must be tested regularly and disposed within a specified time period as per manufacturers specifications to minimize the risk of dangerous reactions.



Spotlight in the Calendar – Safety and Health Week is May 5 – 10, 2025

Safety Scavenger Hunt – Tuesday, May 6th

To recognize Safety and Health Week 2025, the Department of Environmental Health and Safety challenges you to a Safety Scavenger Hunt! Follow this link to the EHS website for the [Scavenger Hunt](#). Mark your calendar or set a reminder - the list will be live **next Tuesday, May 6th**. The first 10 participants to submit their completed scavenger hunt will receive a small token of thanks. Send your completed scavenger hunt to safety@queensu.ca

EHS will be at Science Rendezvous Kingston – Saturday, May 10th

[Science Rendezvous](#) is a free, annual science festival that brings hands-on science activities to families across Southeastern Ontario.

Visit the Environmental Health & Safety booth: ***Detecting the Unknown – Health & Safety in Science***. Learn how to detect hidden moisture behind walls using the TRAMAX moisture meter and FLIR thermal imaging camera. Discover the potential health risks of moisture buildup, such as mold, and how to prevent them. This interactive booth highlights the role of EHS in keeping our science spaces safe and informed.

Register for a free webinar provided by Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. Register to watch on your own or gather and watch as a group.

[CCOHS Safety and Health Week online events](#)

We want to hear from you - Click here to say [***YES, I saw the newsletter!***](#)



Department of Environmental Health & Safety

355 King Street West, 1st Floor, Room 101

Queens University | Kingston, ON | K7L 3N6

Phone: 613-533-2999 internal ext. 32999

Website: www.queensu.ca/risk/safety | Email: safety@queensu.ca