Welcome Anne McKay

Join us in welcoming Anne McKay to the EHSI staff as our new administrative assistant. Anne joins us with 25 years of experience in a variety of office environments and is a welcome addition to our team. She will be taking on an important role as she manages the EHSI website, schedules SafetyNet training events, and publishes the Safety Measures Newsletter. Anne will also be submitting your EHSI visit reports and many of you will soon receive your updated annual Tier II report from her as well. Anne is available Monday – Thursday from 9 am – 2 pm at (828) 694-1767 or you can email her at EHSI@blueridge.edu.

SafetyNet Training at Your Service

Did you know you can set up safety training webinars for your employees with EHSI’s SafetyNet online training center? EHSI staff is available to host live OSHA required training courses that fit your schedule with a wide variety of topics to choose from. Some of the most popular courses include:

- Hazard Communication
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Groundskeeper Safety
- Electrical Safety

Best to eliminate them and prevent accidents, we have set up a two track schedule of events with one track for Maintenance and one for HR/Upper Management. Attendees who are maintenance supervisors or staff will have the opportunity to participate in 8 hours of training addressing some of the most common, yet serious hazards that exist within their multitude of tasks. Attendees who work in administration will be offered courses that are more specific to their role in Safety Leadership including a 4-hour session on active shooter response. The courses will count towards the Manager of Environmental, Safety and Health (MESH) Certificate so those of you who are seeking to gain this recognition will be that much closer. This three day event will be held at CFCC’s Daniel Hall in the Union Station Building in downtown Wilmington NC. Registration begins at noon on April 29, 2015 and the conference will begin at 1 pm. Courses will continue from 8-5 Thursday (lunch is provided) and conclude at noon on Friday, May 1. To register, please email Anne McKay at EHSI@blueridge.edu with the names, email addresses, and job titles of those who you would like to attend. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call us at (828) 694-1767.

EHSI Conference in Wilmington

4/29-5/1

We still have seats available at our 2015 Safety Leadership Conference at Cape Fear CC in Wilmington on 4/29-5/1/2015. This year’s conference is specifically geared towards safety leaders from Maintenance, Human Resources, and Management. The three day event will include 16 hours of comprehensive safety leadership and hazard recognition training developed and presented by the Safety and Health Council of NC. Please see the detailed agenda at the end of this article. To help your safety team have a broader understanding of the hazards on your campus and how
2015 EHSI Safety Leadership Conference

Cape Fear Community College
Wilmington, NC

April 29-May 1

Registration: April 29, 2015 at 12:00

The 2015 EHSI Safety Leadership Conference will be an excellent opportunity for CC Safety Managers and maintenance supervisors to attend advanced safety training workshops. EHSI has teamed up with The Safety and Health Council of NC to offer a customized 3-day workshop focusing on Safety Management at Community Colleges.

Agenda Highlights
- Creating a World Class Safety Culture
- 8 Hour Maintenance Supervisor Safety
- Active Shooter Response
- Incident Investigations
- 14 Credit Hours Towards MESH

Registration begins at noon on April 29 in the Union Station Building, 5th floor Daniels Hall

Contact Anne McKay to reserve your space:
828-694-1767
EHSI@blueridge.edu

Environmental Health and Safety Institute
Blue Ridge Community College
180 W. Campus Dr.
East Flat Rock, NC 28731

Phone: 828-694-1767
Fax: 828-694-1690
E-mail: EHSI@blueridge.edu
Space Heater Safety

With the arrival of cold weather, many of us are using space heaters to help warm up our work space. Many colleges have policy concerning the use of space heaters so check with your supervisor to see if it is OK to have one. Your college may also have restrictions regarding the type and size you may use. Here are some general safety guidelines for the use of portable space heaters.

- Space heaters must be approved by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL), such as Underwriters Laboratory, Inc. (UL). Those not approved, should not be used.
- Space heaters must have an automatic safety switch (tip-over switch) that turns the unit off if it is tipped over.
- Space heaters must have a thermostatic control which ensures that the unit will turn itself off and prevent overheating or creating an electrical hazard. Using a portable space heater properly requires careful placement and monitoring:
  - Space heaters should be kept away from water and wet environments to avoid electrical shock.
  - If an electric space heater is used in an area with running water, like a kitchen or bathroom, make sure to plug the device into an outlet with a ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) to protect against electrical shock.
  - Space heaters must be kept at least three feet away from any combustible items, such as paper, furniture, draperies, etc.
  - Make sure to only plug one space heater into an individual electrical circuit. The use of multiple heaters could overload the electrical circuit and cause injury or property damage.
  - Space heaters should not be used with an extension cord.
  - Space heaters should also not be used if they have missing or broken parts, such as knobs, grills, or stands.
  - Inspect the power cord and base of a space heater before using it to make sure the cord is in good, serviceable condition and is not pinched, worn, frayed, or missing the ground prong.
  - Always make sure to turn off your space heater every time you leave your workspace; it should never be left on while unattended.
  - Consider using radiant foot rest heaters that are designed to go on the floor under your desk and warm your feet. These are safer and more energy efficient, and may have an ergonomic benefit.

Space Heater Safety Tips

- Keep all potential sources of fuel like paper, clothing, bedding or rugs at least three feet away.
- Space heaters should never be left unattended. Turn off space heaters before going to bed or leaving home.
- Place space heaters on a level, hard and nonflammable surface (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- When buying a space heater, look for models that shut off automatically if the heater falls over as another safety measure.
EHSI Attends National PETE Conference In Santa Clara, CA

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EHSI SafetyNet Training Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>(all training starts at 10:00 a.m.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogens Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-17</td>
<td>Office Safety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-3</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogens Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-17</td>
<td>Machine Guarding and Tool Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>Hazard Communication &amp; Bloodborne Pathogens Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-21</td>
<td>Groundskeeper Safety</td>
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