February 2026

EH&S Newsletter

Safety from the Heart

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February is a month filled with heart and that means showing a little extra love to the safety practices that protect the FIU community every day. As we settle into a new month, we are excited to bring you new learning opportunities and chances to engage, learn, and win when it comes to safety. From national celebrations highlighting the importance of lab safety to growing your skills through micro-credentials, this edition is all about caring for yourself, your fellow Panthers, and the spaces where we work and learn. Think of it as a warm nudge to stay aware, stay proactive, and stay connected.

Newsletter Highlights

Heads Up For This Month

- **CSHEMA Lab Safety Awareness Week**
- **New EH&S Micro-credential Course**
- **General Safety Talk 101: Forklifts**

Heads Up For This Month:

- Happy 2026! We hope you had a wonderful and safe start to the new year!
- February 9th-13th is CSHEMA Lab Safety Awareness Week. Stay tuned for upcoming activities.
- NEW! EH&S Micro-credential course – Fundamentals of Lab Safety. Student session opened on February 2, 2026.
- February is American Heart Month – Learn CPR and first aid to save a life!
- **Ruben Bermudez from Facilities LSUS** is February's EH&S Safety Shout Out. Congratulations Ruben!. Nominate someone today by visiting https://ehs.fiu.edu.

Lab Safety Awareness Week, Feb. 9-13

EH&S is celebrating Lab Safety Awareness Week in collaboration with CSHEMA! This is an event that recognizes the successes of laboratory health and safety programs and offers information and ideas on how to keep our faculty, staff, and students safe. This year's theme is: "Smart Science, Safe Science: Make Your Safety Your Lab Habit!".

During this week, EH&S is hosting several activities for you to learn, engage, play, and win! Here's how:

1. Attend our upcoming webinars. It will be informative and engaging. We would love to see you there! We want to hear from you, we want to learn from you, we are here to work with you!

2. Lab Safety Mascot Competition - Create a fun mascot to promote lab safety. The winning mascot will be submitted in the CSHEMA contest for a chance to be shown at the 2026 CSHEMA Annual Conference!

3. Lab Safety Photo Competition - Does your lab shine when it comes to safety? Take a photo of your lab safety expertise. The winning photo will be entered for a chance to win a CSHEMA shoutout on LinkedIn!

4. Visit one of the EH&S Lab Safety table events at MMC, EC, or BBC.

Check the EH&S Announcements page for more information.

EH&S Micro-credential Course – Fundamentals of Lab Safety

We are excited to announce a new learning opportunity! In collaboration with the FIU Micro-credential Office, EH&S created the Fundamentals of Lab Safety Micro-credential Course.

What is a micro-credential?

A Micro-Credential is a digital representation of a competency that a learner can demonstrate. By earning a Micro-Credential, you are able to identify skills to strengthen your competitiveness as a current student and for your post-graduation success. Micro-Credentials are available online, in-person, or hybrid formats, and are taught by members of the FIU faculty and staff team.

This badge recognizes fundamental knowledge of lab safety and compliance. Earners will understand the various regulatory requirements for working with hazardous materials and equipment; risk and hazard identification; safety procedure development; potential impacts of non-compliance. Earners of this badge are equipped with lab safety and compliance tools to potentially enhance employability and/or support career growth.

Who can enroll?

This course is currently accessible in FIU Canvas to students (FIU Develop is coming soon!), and you must meet the following requirements to obtain the micro-credential badge:

- ✓ Be an active FIU employee, faculty, or student
- ✓ Complete at least twelve EH&S Lab Safety Training Modules - all completion certificates must be current
- ✓ Successfully complete the four Student Learning Objectives (SLO)

Interested in growing your skills and credentials?

Complete the EH&S Micro-credential Course Enrollment Form or contact EH&S at ehs@fiu.edu for more information.

General Safety Talk 101

Welcome to General Safety Talk 101! This month's topic is powered industrial trucks (PIT) commonly referred to as forklifts or electric pallet jacks. This essential heavy-duty equipment is used in many types of work areas at FIU – warehouses, research labs, parking garages, shops, and more.

Although these vehicles make work more efficient, they can pose serious hazards to those operating or working near them. OSHA reminds employers and workers that these hazards can be prevented by following safe practices and ensuring that workers are properly trained. Below are some of important key points:

Essential Safety Tips for Forklifts

- Only persons trained, certified, and over the age of 18 are allowed to operate forklifts at FIU
- Never walk under a forklift while it's in operation
- Never ride or be lifted by the teeth of a forklift
- When visiting areas using heavy equipment, stay aware of the dangers that are presented by the machine's operation.
- Report all safety incidents involving forklifts to EH&S

For safety tips or questions, contact EH&S at ehs@fiu.edu. To request training on forklift use and safety, contact EH&S Training at ehstrain@fiu.edu.

Visit the EH&S Laboratory Safety webpage for more information, found here.

Reach out with any questions or concerns: ehs@fiu.edu.

FIU Operations and Safety
Environmental Health & Safety

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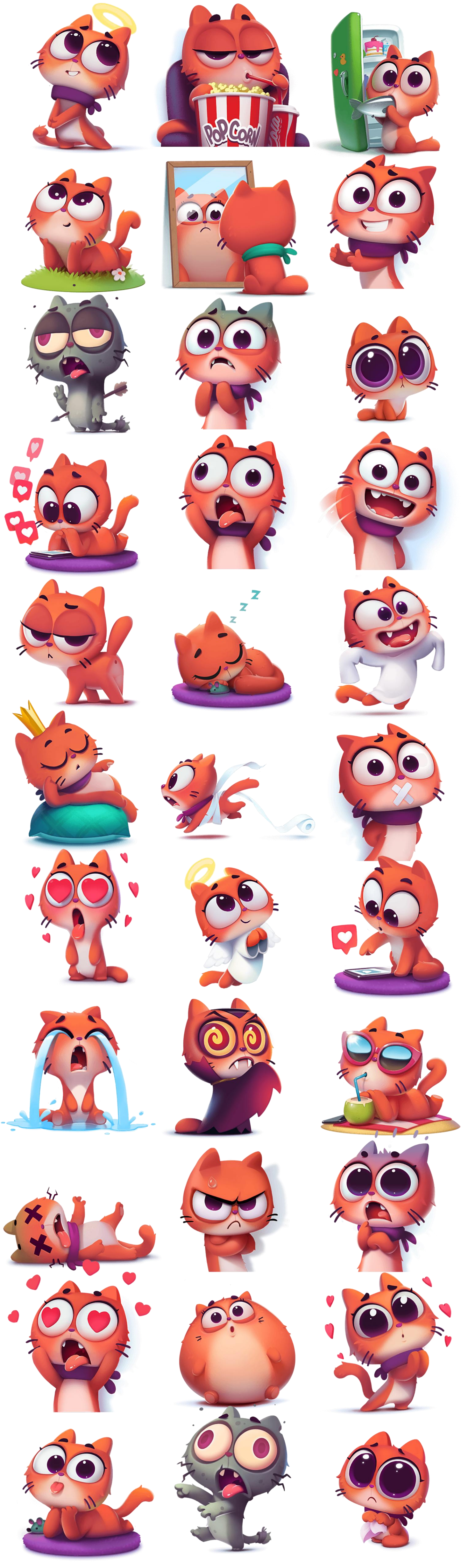
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