


EH&S Newsletter: August 2025

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Ground Control To FIU: Safety is a Go!


Introduction

All systems are go, Panthers! EH&S is launching into a new safety orbit this August! From the official liftoff of CampusOptics to this year's Lab Self-Audit mission prep, we're charting a course toward smarter systems, streamlined compliance, and stellar safety culture. With awards in our cargo hold, it's time to gear up and set the star charts, because our flight awaits! Whether you're a seasoned commander or new to the crew, now's the time to align your protocols and prepare for the launch sequence. Lock in your coordinates, read on to fuel up with everything you need to know. T-minus 24 days until fall semester blastoff.

Heads Up For This Month

- 🐼 Grab your space boots and holster that safety savvy, it's a wild ride out here! Whether you're stargazin' or moonwalkin', keep your space saddle tight: scan the skies for hazards, fuel up on prep, suit up with safety gear, and keep your mission sharp. With the fall semester launch countdown ticking, don't get caught floating! Lock your gear, check your systems, and blaze your trail like a true space wrangler! Stay ready, stay sharp, and orbit safe all semester long.  
- Check out his Safety Shoutout feature or nominate someone/a group for an EH&S' Safety Shout by visiting <https://ehs.fiu.edu>.

Prepare for Launch: 2025 LSA Mission Briefing

 Mission Control is officially prepping for liftoff! The **2025 Laboratory Self Audit (LSA)** launches on **August 1**. This essential mission ensures that every lab space is equipped for safe and compliant operations

before the fall research season begins in full force. Think of the LSA as your *preflight checklist*, confirming that critical safety systems are in place and ready for anything the semester may launch your way.

The LSA is a self-assessment that gives each lab crew the chance to identify potential hazards, confirm core safety measures, and course-correct where needed. Whether you're piloting one space or commanding a multi-lab operation, this year's improvements make participation smoother and more mission-ready than ever:

What's New This Cycle


- **Advance Notification:** A list of all required spaces has been shared ahead of launch to reduce confusion and allow for early planning.
- **Prep Tools:** Use the full survey preview and walkthrough checklist to gather your data and fine-tune operations before submitting.
- **Streamlined Submissions:** Got multiple spaces? You'll receive auto-filled links for each to make re-entry a breeze.

Each space listed must complete its own LSA. If multiple groups share a lab, **each group must submit** separately to ensure full crew accountability. Submissions are due by October 31.


Your mission support contact is Victoria Villa, EH&S Safety Officer and LSA Program Coordinator. Reach out with questions, technical issues, or navigational help.

 Access everything here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/laboratory/index.html#4>

The countdown is on. Prepare your crew, review your space, and initiate launch prep. This is more than a task; it's your contribution to a safe and stellar lab environment.

 Mission status: Cleared for takeoff.

CampusOptics Is in Orbit – Have You Docked Yet?

 CampusOptics has officially entered its operational orbit, and it's time for all labs to sync up! If you received your invitation to log in, your mission is already underway. This powerful new system is designed to help you manage lab safety like never before, bringing your inventory, personnel, and EH&S needs together under one digital roof.

Now's the time to jump into your dashboard and start exploring. Begin by reviewing your **chemical inventory**, ensuring your **lab members are accurately assigned to your space(s)**, and familiarizing yourself with the tools and features available. This isn't just software, it's your co-pilot for compliance and clarity, designed to keep your lab organized, informed, and ready for anything.

If you've already taken off, great, keep cruising and reach out if turbulence hits. And if you **didn't receive the initial login email, can't access your account**, or have any questions as you navigate CampusOptics, **Chemical Safety Officer Margarita Kotzer** is standing by with mission support. Whether you're


troubleshooting technical issues or just need a guided walkthrough, Margarita's here to help you lock onto the right trajectory.

 Contact: **Margarita Kotzer**
Email: mkhabins@fiu.edu

We're excited to have this system fully online and ready to support your lab operations. Think of CampusOptics as your lab's mission control, a central hub where information is streamlined, and safety stays front and center.

So if you haven't logged in yet, don't delay, your safety systems are cleared for orbit. 🌐

Mission Accomplished: EH&S Wins National Honors

 EH&S has officially made waves across the galaxy! The Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) hosted the 2025 CSHEMA Conference, where FIU's EH&S team proudly represented the university on a national stage of campus safety professionals. We presented a technical session on maximizing EH&S outreach with limited resources, highlighting creative strategies for expanding impact without expanding budgets.

But we didn't just attend, we made a stellar landing! EH&S was honored with **three national awards**, recognizing innovation, creativity, and strategic impact:

Innovation Award for Process Improvement

Recognizing the relaunch of our **Emergency Signage Program**, this award honors the streamlined process we developed to improve clarity, communication, and consistency in hazard communication throughout FIU laboratories.

Marketing Campaign Award

Awarded for the **Safety Shout-Out Program**, this campaign highlights outstanding safety practices in action and uplifts those who go above and beyond to make our campus safe, building a culture of recognition and proactive engagement.

Marketing Single Media Award

This award went to the **October 2024 Halloween-themed newsletter**, praised for its clever and creative approach to communicating important safety messages while keeping our audience both informed and entertained.

These awards reflect our trajectory as a department and our commitment to excellence in everything we do, from audits and signage to storytelling and outreach.

We're proud to carry FIU's name into orbit and beyond. Thanks for helping us shoot for the stars and land among them. 🌐