

EH&S Newsletter: April 2026

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Small Actions, Big Impact

Introduction

As we spring into April, let's focus on the importance of Distracted Driving Awareness and Earth Day. Staying alert on the road and making sustainable choices help protect our campus, our community, and our environment. This month, commit to distraction-free driving and take a moment to explore Earth Day sustainability tips. Small actions make a big impact—let's lead by example.

Heads Up For This Month

- April 22nd is Earth Day! Our Power, Our Planet. Join EH&S in celebrating Earth Day.
- Good Housekeeping Tips for a safer work environment
- April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month – Learn what you can do to keep the roads safe!
- EH&S Training Opportunities – Fire Safety
- NEW! EH&S Micro-credential course – Fundamentals of Lab Safety. Student and employee sessions are open! Click <https://ehs.fiu.edu/announcements/index.html> for more information.
- Nominate someone for an **EH&S Safety Shout Out** today by visiting <https://ehs.fiu.edu>.

Good Housekeeping: Tips for a Safer Work Environment

Good housekeeping in any work environment is essential in reducing the risk of accidents and injuries. A good housekeeping routine helps to ensure work areas are kept free of nuisance hazards which can subsequently mushroom into significant hazards when left unattended.

Top Housekeeping Tips

- Never block emergency equipment – fire extinguishers, safety showers, fire alarms/strobes
- Keeps exits, aisles, hallways, and stairs clear of obstruction
- Never overload electrical circuits; use approved surge protectors. Permanent use of extension cords is not permitted.
- Ensure all chemical containers are labeled and stored by classification.

- Use non-porous furniture in areas where hazardous materials are used.
- Keep the areas clutter free, especially combustible materials.

Earth Day – Our Power, Our Planet!

April 22nd is Earth Day! This year's theme - "Our Power, Our Planet" – reflects that environmental progress depends on the daily actions of communities, educators, workers, and families protecting where they work and live. Every action counts, and every voice matters.

In recognition of Earth Day, EH&S is hosting a volunteer event focused on protecting water quality and promoting environmental stewardship across campus. There will be two primary activities: stormwater drain labeling and a campus-wide trash clean-up. These activities support compliance with stormwater regulations, reinforce best management practices, help minimize environmental impacts, and reduce the potential for stormwater contamination.

When? April 21st from 10 AM-2 PM

Where? Campus Support Complex, 148

How? Complete the signup form here: <https://www.givepulse.com/event/856796>

This is a great opportunity for the FIU community to connect with EH&S, contribute to sustainability efforts, and better understand the importance of protecting our stormwater infrastructure and surrounding ecosystems.

Questions? Contact EH&S at ehs@fiu.edu or (305)348-2622. For more information about the scheduled activities, click here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/announcements/earth-day-fiu-april-21st-event.pdf>

General Safety Talk 101: Distracted Driving

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Did you know that distracted driving impacts thousands of people every year in the US? Distracted driving is one of the most dangerous things you can do behind the wheel. It takes away your attention from what really matters – controlling the vehicle and reacting to your surroundings. The three main types of distraction are visual, manual, and cognitive. Many common behaviors involve all three.

Dangers of Distracted Driving

- When your attention is split, it leads to slower reaction times. That delay can mean the difference between stopping safely and causing an accident.
- Activities like texting, using apps, eating, or adjusting the radio increase the chances of causing an accident.
- You miss critical things like traffic signals, pedestrians, sudden stops by other vehicles, road hazards, etc.

What Can You Do?

- Do not multitask. Pay attention to the road and your surroundings at all times.
- If you are a passenger, offer to assist with tasks, like changing the radio or navigation, to prevent the driver from being distracted. If you notice the driver is distracted, speak up.

If something takes your eyes, hands, or mind off driving, it is a risk! Click here for more facts about the impacts of distracted driving in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/distracted-driving/media/pdfs/Distracted-Driving-Summary-Sheet-508.pdf>

For safety tips or questions, contact EH&S at ehs@fiu.edu.

EH&S Training – Be Ready, Stay Safe

Are you interested in learning more about fire safety? This month EH&S Fire Prevention is offering two open training sessions for **Fire Safety & Extinguisher Use**. These sessions offer an informative and immersive hands-on experience to help prevent fires as well as prepare you in case of an emergency.

If you are interested in attending one of the April sessions, please visit the EH&S Training calendar to register: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/index.html> . Can't make it in April? EH&S will have more sessions available soon. Stay tuned!

If you are interested in scheduling a private training session for your group or department, please send your request to ehstrain@fiu.edu.