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Preventing Litter and its Impact on Our Environment

Litter is a major contributor to storm water pollution. Litter and other debris can block storm drains and lead to flooding. Litter can impair water quality and have a significant impact on the aesthetic and recreational value of our water.

Litter is more than an eyesore. When it rains, litter washes into the storm drain system and ends up in area lakes and rivers and much of it remains there for a long period of time. It can take up to 100 years for an aluminum can to decompose.

All it takes is a little effort to keep our campus, streets and neighborhoods litter free. After all, litter not only threatens our environment but also our economy and, inevitably, our way of life.

What You Can Do?

Never throw anything from a vehicle

Not only is it against the law to throw trash from a vehicle, but it also creates an eyesore and unnecessary work for city/county/state employees and volunteers. Trash often ends up in our lakes and rivers where it can pose a threat to fish and other wildlife.

Always use a tarp to secure truck loads

Always secure loads when hauling items in the back of trucks. Bag or cover items to prevent items from blowing out.

Keep trash secure

Make sure trash is in a sealed container so it can't be scattered by weather or animals.

Always use a Trash Container

Take the time to locate trash receptacles when outdoors.

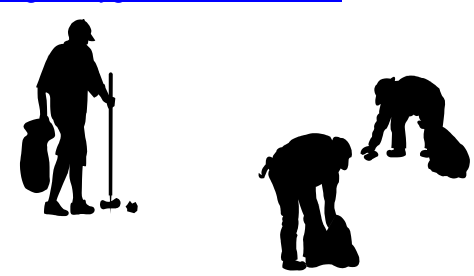
Maintain dumpsters

The University has many dumpster so keep the area around the dumpsters clean and protect them.

For additional water quality information visit:

UNC Environmental Health and Safety
<http://www.unco.edu/facility/ehs/>

City of Greeley Stormwater Management Division
www.greeleygov.com/stormH2O.



Safety / Fire Focus

Work Related Deaths Increased in Colorado

According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the number of work related deaths in Colorado has increased from 125 in 2005 to 137 in 2006. It is a 10 percent increase between the two years. The major work-related death that was identified was due to transportation fatalities such as highway accidents. Other fatalities were due to assaults & violent acts, and contact with objects & equipment. There are approximately five deaths per 100,000 workers according to Debra Tuenge from the Colorado Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries at the Department of Public Health and Environment.



When comparing work-related fatalities by industry, the construction industry took the lead with 26 deaths. Other industries that closely follow were transportation & warehouse industry with a total of 19 and then in the industry of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting there was a total of 19.

The top fatalities in this category with a number of 34 were due to transportation and material-moving occupations, including air, rail, water, highway transportation, as well as couriers, warehouse and storage. Construction and extraction occupations such as engineering projects and preparations of sites for new construction came in second with 23 deaths.

UNC has procedures set up to help avoid transportation accidents. When renting a 15 passenger van, UNC requires a 60-90 minute training overview of the use and operation also including review of policies and procedures. In addition, employees that intend to use a state vehicle should seek training with the Top Drivers Take Control Course. This is a 4 hour course that would provide driving awareness for safety. For further training information contact Facilities Management at 351-2446.

For additional information regarding work-related injuries or deaths in Colorado visit the Colorado Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Website at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/cfoi/colorado.html>

For further information regarding UNC Transportation Services visit <http://www.unco.edu/facility/transportation/index.htm>.

Fire Strikes University of South Carolina and Clemson University

A fire occurred on October 28, 2007 in Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, that claimed the lives of seven students and injured six additional. Six of the victims were from the University of South Carolina and one was from Clemson University. The cause of the fire is believed to be accidental. The home had properly operating smoke alarms that woke up some of the survivors.



This is the deadliest fire involving college students since January 2000. Although this fire did not occur on campus or in a typical off-campus house, this emphasizes the importance of fire safety education on and off of campus.

Winter Driving Safety

Colorado's winter driving conditions can change from sunny to blowing snow within a short period of time. Be prepared at all times, and especially in the winter. Know road conditions, know your vehicle, use proper driving techniques for the conditions you find, and have the correct emergency gear and equipment along.

To be better prepared monitor and know the winter driving forecast terms. Some terms consist of Winter Storm Warning, Blizzard Warning, Wind Chill Warning, Dense Fog Advisory, etc. Additional terms and definitions can be found at http://www.co.boulder.co.us/transportation/pdf_files/winter2.pdf. Also ensure that your vehicle is properly prepared to handle winter driving. Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

Carry a vehicle emergency kit. This kit should include standard emergency items along with extra winter clothing, blankets, sand (or kitty litter), and nonperishable food. If you are stranded in a winter storm the following are a few simple steps to be taken:

- Pull off the road
- Do not leave your vehicle as it is you're only certain source of shelter. (A building may seem close but is too far to walk to in deep snow or very cold conditions.)
- Be visible to rescuers
- Take care not to waste battery power
- Take personal care of yourself and others (use blankets, drink fluids)

Driving Tips

The following are winter driving tips and advice from Colorado Department of Transportation.

- Always wear your seat belt
- Slow down in winter driving conditions
- Use low-beam headlights in bad weather
- Don't use cruise control in slippery conditions
- Remove ice/snow from windows, mirrors, and vehicle lights as often as necessary
- A road treated with liquid de-icer may be wet and slippery. Watch the speed, particularly around curves and in canyons.
- The safest place in bad weather is a safe distance behind a snowplow, where the clearest roads and best traction will be available
- Start and stop gradually to avoid losing traction in wet or slippery conditions.
- If the vehicle begins to skid, remove your foot from the accelerator or brake and steer in the direction of the skid.
- Be gentle with braking pressure during slippery road conditions.

Help keep your vehicle under control.

For additional Winter Driving tips visit the Colorado Department of Transportation at <http://www.dot.state.co.us/>

Health & Wellness

National Blood Donor Month

January 2008 is National Blood Donor Month. In the winter, individuals become less likely to donate for a number of reasons. It could be travel schedules, the holidays or possibly even being sick. Seeing as January is one of the most crucial months for donating blood, it is highly important that people do not let the blood bank inventory get low. American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and the American Red Cross are celebrating National Blood Donor Month (NBDM) 2008 to encourage donors to give or pledge to give blood.

About 39,000 units of blood are used in hospitals each day for many different means. They can vary from any emergency dealing with cancer and other diseases, for organ transplant recipients, and to save lives of accident victims. It should be our goal to donate and help save and/or better the lives of those who need our blood.

If you are at least 17 years of age or weigh a minimum of 110 pounds you are eligible to donate. You are encouraged to help.

Where can you donate blood? Visit www.givelife.org.

For further information about being a blood donor visit the AABB at <http://www.aabb.org>.

or American Red Cross at <http://www.redcross.org/donate/give/>.

Hib Vaccine Recalled

On December 13, 2007 a pharmaceutical company recalled approximately 1 million doses of a children's Haemophilus b Conjugate (Hib) vaccine as a preventative measure due to "lack of assurance of product sterility." Hib disease is a bacteria that is the leading cause of bacteria meningitis. The recalled vaccine does not present any health threat and is not linked to the influenza vaccine. It has been stated that children that have been vaccinated do not need to be revaccinated.

For additional information on this recall please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/recalls/hib-recall-fags-12-12-07.htm>.

BEAR *in* MIND

Bear in Mind (BIM) is a publication brought to you by your campus Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS). We are interested in your thoughts and submissions. Contact the [Environmental Health and Safety](#) department at 970-351-1149. Suggestions can also be sent by campus mail attention EHS, Campus Box 57.

Bear in Mind issues come out every quarter. Find current and archived issues on line at: <http://www.unco.edu/facility/ehs/newsletter.htm>



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