



EHS Bulletin

February 2020

In This Issue:

- Spill Prevention
- Electrical Safety
- Current Events

Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure

Oklahoma State University has aboveground and underground bulk oil storage tanks present at various campus locations used to support facility power plant, emergency generators, equipment fuel, and maintenance. The total aggregate quantity of oil stored at Oklahoma State University causes the university to be subject to the Spill Prevention control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rules and regulations. The SPCC plan covers more than 1,320 gallons of oil, including all oil containers with a capacity of 55 gallons or more.

The goal of this regulation is to prevent oil from reaching navigable waters, adjoining shorelines, and to contain discharges of oil. The plan addresses relevant spill prevention, control, and countermeasures necessary at OSU. More information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/oil-spills-prevention-and-preparedness-regulations/overview-spill-prevention-control-and>.

How to keep OSU compliant with the SPCC plan:

- All oil-handling personnel including operating, maintenance contractors, oil hauling truck drivers, and spill response contractors (not including clerical/administrative staff), must be trained in:
 - Maintenance and deployment of response equipment.
 - Proper operation and maintenance of equipment to prevent discharges.
 - Applicable laws, rules, and regulations regarding spill prevention.
 - The contents and location of the spill contingency plans and any applicable facility response plan used during a spill event.
- Facility owner must complete monthly and annual inspections of the facility bulk oil storage tanks and submit.
- Conduct secondary containment drainage inspections/reports:
 - Examine the surface of the water in the secondary containment structure to be drained. Hydrocarbons must not be present (oil sheen) or release is prohibited.
 - When the water is free of hydrocarbons, unlock and open the drain valve (if applicable).
 - Stay at the open valve and monitor the water discharge.
 - Close and lock the drain valve when the water is drained.
 - Complete the secondary containment inspection and drainage report, then file with the SPCC Plan and copy to EHS.

Report spills and releases to EHS immediately 744-7241. Contact EHS ehs@okstate.edu with any SPCC questions, monthly inspections, or training needs.

Electrical Safety in the Office and Dormitory

With the increased dependence on electronics and electrical appliances, many have found that there are not enough electrical outlets to support the growing number of gadgets. Attempts to charge and use many of these simultaneously can lead to improper usage of aftermarket accessories, increased risk of fire, and even equipment malfunctions. According to the U.S. Fire Administration and National Fire Protection Association electrical malfunctions account for 8,200 fires totaling over \$431 million in non-residential building loss in 2017 and 2% of structure fires in dormitories, fraternities, sororities, and off-campus housing facilities.

Ways to reduce electrical fires and malfunctions:

- Plug large appliances like refrigerators and microwaves directly into wall outlets.
- Install additional outlets when more than one power strip is needed.
- Only use power strips and surge protectors that have over-current protection built-in.
- Power strips and surge protectors must be plugged into the wall and must not be used in conjunction with extension cords or daisy-chained together.
- Extension cords are only for temporary use, unplug them when not using.
- All electrical items, including extension cords, must be certified by a nationally recognized independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories, Intertek, or Canadian Standards Association.
- Keep electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, clothing, loose papers, and other flammable material.
- Always use the proper charger for the electronic device, ensure aftermarket chargers provide the proper charge, current, and voltage.
- Always charge electronics like cell phones on an open flat surface. Never charge a phone in bed or in a closed environment that could cause the phone to overheat and start a fire.
- Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface, or run cords across traffic paths under rugs or furniture.
- Discard or repair damaged electronics. Damaged electronics should not be used since they can cause an electrical shock or even cause a fire.

Current Events

Bloodborne Pathogen Training

2nd Tuesday of the month, 9-10 am or 2-3 pm

EHS Conference Room, 003UHS

Required annually for members under OSHA's standard.

Registration: Email name to chemicalsafety@okstate.edu

Respiratory Protection

1st Tuesday of the month, 8:30-9:30 am

FM North Building, Room101c

Required annually for members who wear respiratory protection.

Registration: Email name to ohsp@okstate.edu

Fire Safety w/ Hands-on Extinguisher Training

2nd Friday of the month, 9:00-10:00 am

EHS Conference Room, 003UHS

Come join us for fire safety education featuring the BullsEye laser training device.

Registration: Email name to ohsp@okstate.edu

Monthly Employee Training

3rd Thursday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am

EHS Conference Room, 003UHS

Topics: Hazcom; Fire Safety; Slips, Trips, and Falls; Office Safety; and Back Safety

Registration: Email name to ohsp@okstate.edu

For any questions or concerns in regards to what electronics are allowed in dormitories, please contact Housing and Residential Life at (405)744-5592 or check their website at residentiallife.okstate.edu/about-us/handbook. For any other electrical safety questions please contact EHS at (405)744-7241 or fls@okstate.edu.