

Increased Safety Measures and Safeguards

UC Santa Cruz Campus

May 2015

Pursuant to California Education Code section 67380, each UC campus is required to provide information regarding special safeguards that have been established for particular facilities or activities in the preceding 18 months to increase safety, and any changes in safety precautions expected to be made during the future 24 months. The following programs or safeguards have been or will be instituted.

Campus Night Safety Escort Program

The UC Santa Cruz Police Department instituted a pilot Campus Night Safety Escort Program that operates Monday through Thursday from 8:30 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. There may be exceptions for holidays. This service is provided at no charge; it does not run during the summer session months. Individuals needing an escort can call the Police Dispatch Center, at (831) 459-2100.

The Safety Escort Program is staffed by Student Ambassadors who are employed by the Police Department. This program is not intended to replace existing transportation services, such as the Metro bus and campus shuttles, or to discourage individuals from walking in groups, but is intended to provide a safe and reliable means of transit from one location to another on the campus. The Campus Safety Escort Program cannot provide escort services to or from off-campus locations.

Intoxicated and/or disorderly students will not be transported, nor is food or alcohol allowed in the shuttle. The Ambassadors reserve the right to refuse transport. Additionally, the Ambassadors may provide walking escorts in lieu of using a vehicle.

Fire System Upgrades

During the past 18 months, UC Santa Cruz has upgraded its fire alarm systems in the following locations: Merrill A and B Dorms. In the next 24 months, Kerr Hall, Thimann Labs, Science & Engineering Library, Cowell College Academic/Administration buildings, and Kresge College Administrative buildings are scheduled to have new fire sprinkler systems installed. Upgrades to existing fire alarm systems are expected to occur at Sinsheimer Labs, Earth and Marine Sciences, and Science and Engineering Library. In addition, seismic upgrades being conducted for Student Union buildings at the Quarry Plaza.

Environmental Health and Safety Safeguards and Improvements

The Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) office, in cooperation with campus departments, monitors facility safety relating to research operations at UC Santa Cruz. EH&S is responsible for monitoring compliance with environmental, health, and safety programs intended to prevent occupational injuries and illnesses in the workplace and to protect the quality of the surrounding environment. EH&S advises the campus research community of responsibilities with respect to health, safety, and environmental issues; recommends appropriate corrective actions; and implements new health and safety programs as needed. EH&S also acts as liaison between UCSC and various external agencies and regulatory bodies.

Several improvements have been made to established protocols and procedures over the past 18 months, and will continue into the next 24 months. Laboratory safety programs with regard to injury and illness prevention, radiation safety, biosafety, chemical safety, and animal care and use in research programs have been and continue to be enhanced.

Moreover, researcher training, medical surveillance, hazard analysis, and personal protective equipment programs continue to grow to ensure that research operations are performed safely and according to all applicable regulations.

UC Santa Cruz Arts Division Safety Improvements

University of California Performing Arts Safety Center of Excellence

In October 2012, the University of California (UC) Office of the President established a systemwide position and focus on Theater Safety, entitled the Performing Arts Safety Center of Excellence. This position and initiative was created as loss experience for the UC system indicated that teaching, research, and work activities within the Performing Arts can result in serious injuries and may represent significant risk to faculty, staff and students.

Services provided by the Center of Excellence support health and safety in Performing Arts units and include:

- Auditing Injury & Illness Prevention Programs (IIPP)
- Conducting facility health & safety inspections
- Performing risk assessments of higher hazard operations
- Providing health & safety education and outreach materials

UC Santa Cruz Arts Division Safety and Security Programs

The campus and Arts Division have coordinated to have a comprehensive safety and security survey performed for the facilities, parking areas, and walking paths in and around Arts Division facilities. Recommendations and improvements being implemented include installation of new exterior lights on pathways and in parking areas; maintenance and repair of existing exterior light fixtures; and trimming and pruning of trees, shrubbery and foliage that is blocking lighting or creating security concerns near paths and parking lots.

The UC Center of Excellence for Performing Arts Safety has:

- Developed and distributed the UC Performing Arts Safety Manual
- Developed and delivered a two-day Theater Fall Protection Competent Person Training
- Coordinated a 10-hour OSHA Certification training specifically developed and targeted to theater operations staff

The UC Santa Cruz Arts Division has received Be Smart About Safety funding for the following projects:

- Procurement of specialized equipment, including an aerial work platform and mobile scaffold system, to access areas and perform routine operations at height. This equipment allows faculty, staff and students to safely work at height and has eliminated the routine use of tall portable “A” frame ladders for certain activities.

- Procurement of new OSHA- and-ANSI certified fall-arrest harnesses and self-retracting lifelines that allow Theater Arts staff to safely perform high hazard operations where other forms of fall protection (guardrails, safety nets, etc.) cannot be installed.
- An extensive capital project to install a fixed staircase and improve the seismic integrity of guardrails in two UCSC Theater facilities. These improvements will eliminate the need for faculty, staff, and students to routinely use vertical ladders and improves the overall primary fall prevention safeguards by strengthening the guardrail system.
- Improvements to the Art Department Woodshop local exhaust ventilation system and elimination of manual material handling hazards associated with moving and dumping large barrels of sawdust.
- Elimination of shop hazards, including removal of a non-compliant radial arm saw and procurement and installation of a new panel saw that reduces the likelihood of a saw-related injury and improves material handling activities in the shop.