

Health and Safety Report

By: Alexandru Sonoc, PSAC 901 Executive Health and Safety Officer

Greetings PSAC 901 members,

This fall has been a period of renewal for the PSAC Health and Safety. Following a large callout, and more than a dozen interviews, six members have been selected to represent PSAC on all five of the university's Joint Health and Safety Committees where PSAC is entitled to representation. Following their selection the representatives were trained by PSAC on how to effectively be your safety representatives. Now that they are fully trained please contact them with any safety concerns you may have at Queen's. They, together with myself, your supervisors, your departmental safety representatives, and the Queen's office of Environmental Health and Safety all work to ensure your safety. If you have any safety concerns at all please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Now, without further ado, here are your PSAC safety representatives. For the Faculty of Arts and Science Yagya Paudel . For the Faculty of Engineering Alexandria Tsimiklis. For the Faculty of Health Sciences M. Owais Aziz and Silja Freitag. For the Faculty of Law and the Schools of Business and Religion Jordan Mitchell. For the Faculty of Education Matt Norris. Below are their bios.



Yagya Paudel

Yagya Paudel (Department of Chemistry), a Ph. D. student in Ross's group has expertise of biological and chemical laboratory safety. Some of his current lab duties are also related to maintaining and checking the operation and safety measures of different chemicals, instruments and microorganisms. Previously, Mr. Paudel worked as a recording secretary for Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3905 at Lakehead University where he gained an experience of group safety inspection of laboratories and working places. [Email-y.paudel@queensu.ca](mailto:y.paudel@queensu.ca)



Alexandria Tsimiklis

My name is Alexandria Tsimiklis and I am pleased to be your Joint Health and Safety Union representative for the Applied Science Committee. I am currently a first year Master's student in the Collaborative Biomedical Engineering program, focusing my research in Biomechanical Engineering. My experience in health and safety includes research in mining ergonomics related to line-of-sight and vibration. In addition, I have experience completing ergonomic analyses in offices and industrial

settings in an effort to prevent the development of musculoskeletal disorders in workers. Feel free to contact me at 9aft@queensu.ca or a.tsimiklis18@gmail.com.



Jordan Mitchell

Hello, my name is Jordan Mitchell and I am an M.A.Sc. student in the Mining Engineering department and I am the JHSC TA representative for PSAC 901 on the University administrative Services Committee. I graduated from my B.A.Sc. program at Queen's University in May 2015. Over past years I have accumulated the following safety related recognitions:

- Standard First aid with CPR C
- Worksmart Campus Safety Certificate
- Queen's Health and Safety Awareness Certificate
- Occupational Health and Safety in Mining Practice

If you have any questions regarding safety issues on campus please email me at: jordan.mitchell@queensu.ca

M. Owias Aziz

M. Owias Aziz is a graduate student at Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences (DBMS) with previous experience of working along with a team of QHSE (Quality, health, safety and environment) at an oil rig of Weatherford drilling International. Possessing a healthcare degree, Owais is more incline towards maintaining health standards at the workplace. During his stay on the rig he was responsible for providing an "induction training" to the employees, developing and amending SOPs (Safety Operative Procedures). Owais have completed the diplomas from the Ministry of Labour and Manpower in "Health Safety and Environment" and "Safety officer". Email: aziz.muhammad@queensu.ca

Silja Freitag

Is the VP Post Docs of PSAC 901 and a researcher in the Faculty of Health Science. She may be reached at yppd@psac901.org



Matt Norris

Hello, my name is Matt Norris. Before teaching in Thailand for three years, I worked as a supervisor at a golf course in the food and beverage department, and as a working foreman for a company installing resident nurse alert systems in long-term care facilities and hospitals. I have always had a passion for building and construction. Also, the exposure to labour law, mediation and arbitration I received in my undergraduate degree in Business Law has allowed me the opportunity to be the PSAC 901 Unit 1 Joint Health and Safety Officer for Duncan McArthur Hall.

Contact Information: Email: 13mn27@queensu.ca

Phone # 613-889-5124

Desk 30 in the Graduate Lounge in Duncan McArthur Hall.

Health and Safety workspace self inspection

Safety is everybody's responsibility. Every workspace at Queen's is by law inspected by a Joint Health and Safety Committee once per year. But in between inspections it is the responsibility of everyone who uses the workspace to report any safety issues. Since you are the primary user of your own workspace much of this reporting responsibility rests on you. Below is a checklist of common safety issues at Queen's to help you conduct self-inspections of your workspace. If you find anything which is or even seems to be unsafe please contact your supervisor, or departmental safety representative, your PSAC Joint Health and Safety representative, myself (at healthandsafety@psac901.org) or the department of environmental health and safety at safety@queensu.ca or 32949. Urgent situations should be reported to Queen's Security.

Things to look out for:

Abusive behaviour, harassment, intimidation, bullying

Whether perpetrated by undergraduate students, faculty members, university staff, or fellow workers all forms of harassment in the workplace are a safety hazard and should be reported. Harassment has the potential to cause significant psychological or physical harm and Queen's is obligated by law to try to prevent it and deal with it when it occurs.

Walking and Working Surfaces

These should be clean, dry, orderly, unobstructed, carpets should be secured to floors etc.

Exits

Easy access, unobstructed, dry, clearly marked, well lit, unlocked.

Stairways

Proper handrails in good repair, masonry in good repair, ice/snow free, unobstructed, adequate illumination, bicycle free.

Air and Ventilation

Comfortable temperature, humidity, free of contamination sources such as dust or

insects, free of odours, gas, vapours, fumes, unobstructed intake/exhaust vents.

Eyewash fountains, hand washing sinks, safety showers

Availability, cleanliness, in working condition, regularly serviced/inspected.

Noise/Vibration

Excessive noise/vibration.

Hazardous Chemicals

Identification, availability of MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), properly labelled, properly stored, properly disposed of.

First Aid

Kits/supplies, qualified attendants, emergency phone numbers.

Fire Protection

Extinguishers, hoses, and alarm stations regularly inspected, accessible, clearly marked with signage, and in good working order.

Machine Guarding

Regularly inspected and maintained, possible pinch points, broken pieces,

clutter free, signage, adequate guarding, personal protective equipment provided and in good condition, emergency stop devices, excessive force needed to operate the machine etc.

Electrical equipment

Grounded, no frayed cords, away from water sources, power cords under desks tied back.

Office Furnishings

Chairs have five casters and are in good repair, carpets are taped down, shelves are secured to walls, no heavy objects above head level, no clutter above head level, crowded working conditions.

Lab furnishings

Chairs have five casters and are in good repair, fume hoods are free of clutter, trunks are in good working condition, pathways are clear, refrigerators and microwaves are labeled as food only, no food or drink in labs and signage is present etc.

Illumination/lighting

Adequate light for workstations, passageways.

Bulletin Boards

Workplace JHSC reports posted, list of Health and Safety Committee members posted, minutes of JHSC meeting posted, only safety related materials on the safety boards.

Pest control

Look out for insect or rodent droppings, dead animals & insects, wasp nests etc.

Water Damage

Look (and smell) for evidence of mildew and mold, pay attention to peeling or bubbling paint, large spots in ceilings, 'sinking ceilings,' rusty/rotted beams/joists, water damage around

windows, and obvious drips and pools of water)

Ignorance in shared workspace

Workers sharing a lab should know what each other is doing and what the hazards are of each other's experiments/work

Controlled access

Some experiments require that persons not conducting the experiment be excluded from the lab. Controls must be put in place to prevent such persons from entering (e.g. a locked door and ideally a sign forbidding access).

Power cords on the floor

Power cords should be secured to floors they cross else they are a tripping hazard.

Fumehoods with insufficient suction

Check with a piece of tissue paper that the fumehood such air in.

Unlabeled containers in a chemical lab

Fume hoods used for storage

Fumehoods are meant for working in not storing in. A crowded fumehood is a safety hazard.

Sources of ignition in facilities working with flammable vapours or dusts.

Alarms present in facilities working with compressed gasses (e.g. low oxygen alarm, excess hydrogen alarm, etc.)

Workers with insufficient training. Has the worker received the appropriate safety training for the tasks he is performing and for **all** the hazards present in the workplace, including those he does not work with?

Storage of incompatible chemicals in close proximity.

Improper disposal of chemicals: Eg. sink smells of acetone: acetone was likely

poured down the drain, which violates disposal guidelines. Do you and your co-workers know the proper disposal guidelines for the materials they work with?

Overheating risk due to equipment

Some equipment, especially computers, cause a lot of heat. If there are too many of them in a space with insufficient ventilation there is a danger of a work environment becoming too hot.

Entrapment

Very small workspaces that can trap a person.

Garbage

Old garbage not taken out is a health hazard.