



Environmental Services is proud to present the first issue of its quarterly newsletter. The Environmental Services Newsletter's intent is to provide specific and important information that will increase campus-wide environmental, health and safety awareness, maintain compliance in all areas and above all, promote and protect human health and the environment.

In addition to the Newsletter, Environmental Services has redesigned its website to include information regarding training, specific programs, safety policies, waste disposal information and other services provided by Environmental Services. Please check out the website at: www.blahblahblah In the future, the Newsletter will only be offered on the website. To access this and other future newsletters, please go to the address above and click on blahblah.

Environmental Services would like to thank you for your continued efforts to maintain environmental, health and safety compliance at the University.

Recycling Computer Equipment

Replacing your old computer? A standard computer monitor contains 4-8 pounds of lead. Most electronic devices contain materials, particularly heavy metals, which are regulated as hazardous materials/waste by the state and federal government. Circuit boards, switches, relays, batteries, and plastic stabilizers in many other electronic devices can contain mercury, a highly toxic metal, and cadmium compounds, which are suspected carcinogens.

ES has made arrangements with M&O to collect your used computer equipment (monitor, CPU and peripherals) for recycling to keep lead out of our landfills.

Environmental Services is in the process of creating a Policy for the collection and recycling of all obsolete/non-working electronic equipment, particularly computer monitors and CPUs. This Policy will outline steps the user or owner will need to take to "erase" the harddrive prior to receiving approval for disposal from Asset Management. Environmental Services will notify the Campus Community of the new Policy and Procedures when they become available.

Fire Safety – Winter Heating

With the winter months approaching many city residents turn to the use of space heaters as a way to heat the home. Unfortunately, space heaters are the leading cause of fires in the winter months.

- ❑ Two of every three home heating fires in the U.S. in 1998, and three of every four related deaths, were attributed to space heating equipment. *
- ❑ In 1998, there were 49,200 heating equipment-related home fires reported to U.S. fire departments, resulting in 388 deaths, 1,445 injuries and \$515 million in property damage. *
- ❑ All types of common space heating equipment are involved in home fires: portable electric heaters, portable kerosene heaters, wood stoves, fireplaces with inserts and room gas heaters. *

These facts and other safety tips for using heating equipment can be found at the FDNY Website at:

http://www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/fdny/html/safety/firesafety_heating.html

(*From NFPA's U.S. Home Heating Fire Patterns and Trends)

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Fire Safety – Holiday Decorations

The holiday season is upon us and Environmental Services would like to offer the following guidelines in decorating your office or home.

University Buildings

- Only artificial trees may be decorated with U.L. listed low-heat producing electric lights.
- Decorations must not cover or interfere with fire safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, exit signs, sprinkler heads and piping, and fire alarm pull stations.
- Open flames and candles may **NOT** be used as decorations at any time.
- Light bulbs and lighted decorations should never come in contact with paper or other combustible material.

Homes and Apartments

- If using a live tree, re-cut the base before placing in the tree stand.
 - Keep the tree stand filled with water.
 - Do not place tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent.
 - Do not leave up for longer than two weeks.
 - Inspect holiday lights for bare spots, frayed, cracked or kinking wires.
 - Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
 - Test your home smoke alarms.
- Replace the batteries if you have not done it so far this year.
- For information go to United States Fire Association web site at: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/dhtml/public/hfs_new.cfm