

Maverick Safety Matters

Environmental Health & Safety

Fall 2024

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& S



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Electric-Powered Scooters

E-scooters are a fun and efficient way to travel, but they can be dangerous. Unsafe riding and collisions can cause serious injury or death.

CPSC recommends the following safety tips when riding an e-scooter:

WEAR A HELMET. Knee and elbow pads can also help to prevent injury from falls and collisions.

CHECK FOR DAMAGE. Before riding, ensure the handlebars, brakes, throttle, bell, lights, tires, cables, and frame are in good condition. Damage to the e-scooter can cause you to lose control and crash.

TEST THE BRAKES. Make sure you know how to use the brakes and how long it takes to stop the e-scooter so you're prepared for an emergency stop. Stopping distance can vary significantly from scooter to scooter.

ALERT OTHERS AND BE SEEN. E-scooters are small, quick, and silent, making it difficult for others to spot you, especially in parking lots and structures.

Expect vehicles and pedestrians to not see you; slow down, and plan ahead of time.

Use the bell/horn to alert others.

Do not make abrupt, unpredictable movements.

WATCH OUT FOR OBSTACLES. Uneven surfaces, cracks, and small objects on your pathway can stop the e-scooter suddenly, throwing you off.

HANDS ON. Always keep both hands on the handlebars and keep items off the handlebars.

SLOW AND STEADY. Slow down and lean back when you have to ride over bumps.

ALCOHOL OR DRUGS. Never ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

RIDE SOLO. Only one person per e-scooter; additional riders can increase the risk and severity of collisions.

AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE RIDING. Listening to music while riding is distracting and prevents you from hearing your environment. Same goes for talking on your phone, even with a hands-free device, because it can result in distracted operation of the scooter

NO STUNTS. Jumps and bumps can damage the e-scooter and make it unstable. This can pose a risk not only to yourself but also to people around you and to the next rider.

FOLLOW ALL MANUFACTURER DIRECTIONS. Check the e-scooter's safety information, such as weight and age limits. Many e-scooters are designed specifically for adults because of the size and speed of the scooter.

PARK CORRECTLY. The e-scooter should be parked upright and away from pedestrian and motorist traffic so that it's not a tripping hazard.

REPORT PROBLEMS. Use the service's app to report any issues, such as signs of damage. You could end up saving the next rider's life. Report any incidents with e-scooters to CPSC at [Saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov).

RIDE RESPONSIBLY FOR YOU AND OTHERS. Remember, many accidents can be prevented by simply slowing down! Always be aware of your surroundings and be prepared to stop. [Click here](#) to watch CPSC's e-scooter PSA.

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30 Years and Counting

Ramon Ruiz, Assistant Director of Environmental and Occupational Safety for EH&S, recently celebrated 30 years of service at UTA. Three decades of dedication is a rare milestone and one to be celebrated. Thank you Ramon, for your commitment to EH&S. You are an inspiration and an essential part of our team. Your hard work and loyalty are truly appreciated!



Ramon Ruiz, accompanied by his wife, is recognized by UTA for his 30-year milestone.

Workers' Compensation

The Environmental Health & Safety Office (EH&S) is responsible for coordinating the UTA Workers' Compensation Program. The UTA WC Claims Analyst serves as a facilitator between UTA injured employees and all UT System WC Insurance entities by submitting appropriate forms in a timely manner and making every effort to negotiate modified duty assignments. For an injury or illness to be work related, it must originate while you are engaged in the work your job requires you to do for the university. Click here to learn more about workers' compensation at UTA and procedures to follow if injured on the job.

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HEALTH & SAFETY

EH&S staff members recently attended the Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association’s (CSHEMA) 72nd annual conference in Seattle, WA. (CSHEMA) is the only organization focused entirely on serving EHS professionals in higher education.



EH&S staff members Elisabeth Rowlett and Jordan Feder prepare for sessions at CSHEMA conference.



EH&S Director Otu Inyang joins Elisabeth and Jordan before their CSHEMA sessions.



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Complying with EPA rule on Methylene Chloride

In its latest action to protect worker health, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) using the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) framework is prohibiting most consumer and commercial use of Methylene Chloride. University research and operations are impacted by this rule. EPA has allowed certain exempt conditions, including laboratory research but with strict monitoring and exposure requirements.

In accordance with EPA TSCA Final Rule of May 8, 2024, entities like UTA are required to develop a Workplace Chemical Protection Program (WCPP) no later than October 2025. In addition, those entities would be required to periodically monitor their workplace to ensure that workers are not exposed to levels of methylene chloride that would lead to an unreasonable risk. [Click here](#) to see the timeline for compliance and the steps taken by EH&S.

Check out
EH&S on
Facebook
to keep up
with all our
events &
training:

[UT Arlington
Environmental
Health & Safety
Office](#)

Thanksgiving Safety

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

EH&S TRAINING COURSES

Online safety training is located on the EH&S training management website: <https://cems.uta.edu/>

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| Bloodborne Pathogens for Laboratory Research Personnel | Back Injury Prevention |
| Bloodborne Pathogens (Non-Research) | Confined Space Entry Awareness |
| BioSafety Level 2 | Hand & Power Tool Safety |
| On-Site Biohazardous Waste Management | Hearing Conservation |
| Vaccinia Virus | Lockout/Tagout |
| Laser Safety | Respiratory Protection |
| Radiation Awareness | Class C Underground Storage Tank |
| Radiation Producing Machine | Defensive Driving Awareness |
| Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Academic | 12 & 15 Passenger Van |
| Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Non-Academic | Powered Industrial Truck (Forklift) |
| Fire Alarm Device | Hot Work Safety |

Call us at 817-272-2185 to schedule specific trainings not available online:
Radioactive Materials Fire Extinguisher Respirator Fit Testing Hands On PIT (Forklift)
 The [Great Escape with Fire Extinguisher Training](#) and [Evacuation Chair](#) in person trainings are offered on a bimonthly basis. Please call to sign up for a date.

DRIVING UTA VEHICLES

Defensive Driving Awareness - This online course must be completed every 3 years to remain an authorized driver of UTA vehicles. Additionally, an individual driving record check (MVR) must be updated annually.

12 & 15 Passenger Van Training: Take the online course first. A behind-the-wheel driving test is also required and will be conducted at the EH&S office, 500 Summit Ave. Drivers must have already passed the Defensive Driving Course and have a current approved driving record check (MVR) to attend. Click the link below to schedule a date and time.

[EH&S Booking Site for 12 & 15 Passenger Van Training](#)



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