

# Maverick Safety Matters

Environmental Health & Safety

Spring 2024



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## 2024 Total Solar Eclipse

A total solar eclipse is expected to pass through the United States on April 8, 2024. It will give stargazers the chance to view the celestial phenomena in which the moon will pass in front of the sun, causing the sun to be blocked entirely and creating a period of total darkness.

The eclipse will enter the U.S. in Texas and exit in Maine. This will mark the last time a solar eclipse is visible in the U.S. until the year 2044. UTA has a full day of activities planned around the eclipse and EH&S will be on hand for any safety assistance needed for the UTA community.

## Solar Eclipse Eye Safety



EH&S student workers Tiffany Fontenot, Zainab Rahim and staff member Violet Wayman enjoy the UTA solar eclipse festivities.



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EH&S STAFF:

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EH&S Current Events

EH&S Staff Member Retires



Merja Karwoski

Merja Karwoski, EH&S Biological Safety Specialist, retires after 16 years at UTA. With more than 13 years of experience in research work, Merja was a valuable asset of UTA's Biological Safety program...



Merja Karwoski with current and former EH&S team members

EH&S Staff Promotions



Darren Byington

J. Darren Byington is our new Assistant Director of Fire and Life Safety. Darren previously served as the Construction Project Manager for EH&S. Darren started with UTA as a contractor before re-joining the EH&S department in 2021.



Elisabeth Rowlett

Elisabeth Rowlett has been selected as the new Assistant Director for Research and Laboratory Safety. Elisabeth previously held the Chemical Management Specialist position within EH&S. Elisabeth will celebrate 15 years with EH&S in November.

EH&S Welcomes New Staff Member



Violet Wayman

Violet Wayman joins EH&S as a Safety Specialist III. Violet will support the needs of UTA in areas of research, teaching, and service mission. Specifically in the areas of Biological Safety, including but not limited to human pathogens registrations, biosafety cabinet recertification, safety evaluations, BSL-2 space commissioning and decommissioning, etc. Welcome to our team, Violet!

**EH&S STAFF:**

Harvey Richey  
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## SHOCKING TIPS ABOUT ELECTRICAL SAFETY



### Electrical Fire Safety Tips

- Do not piggyback or plug a power strip of any type into another.
- Do not overload electrical sockets.
- Never use an extension cord with an appliance — plug them directly into wall sockets.
- Never place anything that can burn over a lamp.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**More than 400 die from electrical home fires annually in the United States.**

Overloaded extension cords, power strips and outlets are one of the leading causes of fires in college housing

Many college students live in older off-campus housing equipped with electrical wiring that can't safely handle the modern power demands from microwave ovens, compact refrigerators and personal computers, used by the multiple residents living there.

Check with your college/university to see which types of appliances are allowed or prohibited in residence hall rooms.

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

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

## Always Follow Laboratory Safety Rules!



Life threatening injuries can happen in the laboratory. For that reason, students need to be informed of the correct way to act and things to do in the laboratory. Always have a safety checklist with do's and don'ts and know emergency procedures in the event one occurs. Reference EH&S' webpage for lab and chemical safety information.

### EH&S TRAINING COURSES

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

Bloodborne Pathogens for Laboratory Research Personnel  
Bloodborne Pathogens (Non-Research)  
BioSafety Level 2  
On-Site Biohazardous Waste Management  
Vaccinia Virus  
Laser Safety  
Radiation Awareness  
Radiation Producing Machine  
Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Academic  
Hazard Communication & Waste Mgmt- Non-Academic  
Fire Alarm Device

Back Injury Prevention  
Confined Space Entry Awareness  
Hand & Power Tool Safety  
Hearing Conservation  
Lockout/Tagout  
Respiratory Protection  
Class C Underground Storage Tank  
Defensive Driving Awareness  
12 & 15 Passenger Van  
Powered Industrial Truck (Forklift)  
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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