Safety and Health on the job: Know your OSHA rights and responsibilities!

What is OSHA?

The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is an agency of the United States Department of Labor. It was created by Congress under the Occupational Safety and Health Act on December 29, 1970. Its mission is to prevent work-related injuries, illnesses, and deaths by issuing and enforcing rules (called standards) for workplace safety and health.

What are employer and employee rights and responsibilities under this Act?

General employer and employee rights and responsibilities are covered in the OSHA General Duty Clause, which states that each employer must provide to each employee a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees; each employer must also comply with occupational safety and health standards promulgated under the OSH Act. Under OSHA, each employee has the responsibility to comply with their employer’s occupational safety and health standards. Employees also have the right to report unsafe acts or conditions in their workplace without fear of reprisal or retribution by the employer.

Who covers Safety and Health Programs at UNR?

The Department of Environmental Health & Safety operates a comprehensive environmental health and safety program. We promote environmental, occupational health, and safety services through education, consultation and research. EH&S Program areas include:

- Lab Safety
- Occupational Safety
- Radiation Safety
- Waste Management
- EH&S Training
- Occupational Health
- Emergency Planning
- Environmental Affairs
- Chemical Inventory
- Knowledge Management

What Safety and Health Training is available to UNR faculty, staff, and students?

All EH&S Programs may be found on the EH&S website, [www.ehs.unr.edu](http://www.ehs.unr.edu). The EH&S Department conducts training sessions on safety and health topics such as Emergency Response, Asbestos Awareness, Laboratory Safety, and Heat Stress, to name a few; check the EH&S website, under Training Registration, for the latest offerings. Online training is also available for select EH&S topics through WebCampus.

References:

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

[http://www.ehs.unr.edu](http://www.ehs.unr.edu)