



**Don't Wait**  
**CHECK**  
the date!

**REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**  
**OCTOBER 9–15, 2016**

firepreventionweek.org

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## INSPECT - PART OF THE UC SAFETY SUITE



Inspect is a flexible, customizable tool that provides streamlines inspections using a mobile device.

It is part of the UC Safety Suite, a diverse collection of integrated applications to address the needs of Research Compliance, Environmental Health and Safety and Risk Management.

For more information on this and other modules in the Suite, visit <https://ehs.ucop.edu>.

## Don't Wait - Check the Date!

*This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," represents the final year of our three-year effort to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety.*

Why focus on smoke alarms three years in a row? Because NFPA's survey data shows that the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire. For example, only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

As a result of those and related findings, we're addressing smoke alarm replacement this year with a focus on these key messages:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Follow these simple steps to check the date on your smoke alarm:

1. Remove the smoke alarm from the wall

or ceiling.

2. Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.
3. Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.
4. Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.

### **Always remember:**

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

## Safety - Sustainability Synergy at UC and Around the County

By: Allen Doyle, Sustainability Manager

The University of California has adopted a systemwide ban on the use, possession, charging, or storage of self-balancing, battery-powered boards known as hoverboards, sometimes referred to as electronic skateboards or scooters, and other similar equipment in buildings and housing units at all University Locations including medical centers.

This ban is only applicable to those devices that meet the definition of a hoverboard (below). It does NOT include non-self-balancing electric skateboards, eBikes, or electronic mobility devices for people with disabilities. These devices use different types of batteries that are not known to pose a risk of catching fire while charging or in use. Hoverboard models that are tested and certified by an accredited third party testing laboratory (such as the Underwriters Laboratory) are excluded from this ban. The testing and certification must be performed against a recognized consumer product safety performance standard that has specifically evaluated and “approved” the fire safety of the device. Such devices must be labeled with the approval seal of the testing lab (e.g. UL).

EH&S departments often find that sustainable labs are safe labs, and that safety and sustainability professionals are partnering to advance both visions. As each campus develops its Green Labs program, the synergy pattern will continue to grow at UC and campuses across the US.

This pattern may be ascribed to good management within each research group, so that attention to sustainability naturally goes along with attention to safety. Do green labs improve safety culture? Where are EH&S departments pairing up with sustainability engagement programs, and what is the payoff for this relationship? The next phase of collaboration is to test whether going green will elevate safety practices, and a budding effort along these lines is unfolding.

Safety and sustainability professionals support high performance laboratories for world-renowned discoveries. Sustainability can be leveraged for safety culture two ways: the “feel-good” effort to protect the planet and future generations, and the focus on identifying areas of low risk and keeping them that way, using self-monitoring and corrective actions. Often times, the best training and supervision, mandates and penalties still come down to good behavior at the personnel level, and safety and sustainability have this in common. The payoff for sustainability goals is that identified “low risk” zones can become “low impact” zones.

At UC Office of the President, Executive Director for Environment, Health and Safety Ken Smith supports green lab efforts, writing, “Laboratories that have an active approach in managing their sustainability and environmental impacts also have a strong safety culture. I believe the reason for this is that the same principles used in managing laboratory operations risks apply equally to sustainability as they do to occupational safety. Thinking of one’s actions and their likely outcome, choosing wisely and sharing what worked and what didn’t are the fundamental practices of both areas. The synergistic improvement of safety is another reason why implementing sustainable laboratory practices just makes sense.” At UC Davis, Becky Grunewald, Lab Safety Review Program Manager, often notices that certified “Green Labs” are well-organized and have fewer notifications. At Berkeley, and recently UC Davis, the 12 principles of green chemistry in lab practices are being promoted, reducing toxicity and contamination by design and source reduction. For a select group of chemicals, this translates to getting researchers to carry reduced size bottles for occupant and downwind safety and reduced exhaust flows. At Cal, EH&S Construction Coordinator David Scrimger partners with Lab Safety Specialists Ingrid Rodriguez and Gaelle Deshayes to reduce fire risk by installing evaporation-proof metal beads in researchers’ hot baths, identifying less toxic alternatives to Ethidium Bromide, and reducing flood risk by testing air-cooled condensers. UC Irvine is developing a green lab program through a working group consisting of faculty, students, EH&S, sustainability, and purchasing representatives, and Industrial Hygienist David Kang is also an energy specialist, thus empowering the best design and operation of HVAC systems for safety and efficiency.

At Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT), the EH&S department launched a green laboratory engagement program with the help of recent chemistry Ph.D. alumna Lisa Anderson and the non-profit My Green Lab. They recently posted, “(MIT) has found that the goals overlap and are mutually beneficial.” At Emory University in Atlanta, Sustainability Programs Coordinator Kelly Weisinger wrote, “we collectively developed and now implement the program, and EH&S sees this as a win/win for them because it overlaps with their safety work, it brings a positive spin to their regulatory reputation, and they enjoy the perks of more thoughtful behaviors in labs.”

[Continued](#)

### OCTOBER POSTER



Reporting Fires

## CONNECT

Know where to turn on your UC campus for the information you need to keep yourself, your workplace and your environment safe and secure. Click on the campus links below to connect to local program, educational and informational resources.

[UC Berkeley](#)

[UC Merced](#)

[UC Santa Barbara](#)

[UC Davis](#)

[UC Riverside](#)

[UC Santa Cruz](#)

[UC Irvine](#)

[UC San Diego](#)

[UCOP](#)

[UCLA](#)

[UC San Francisco](#)

[UC ANR](#)

## FIRE PREVENTION RESOURCES:

[Campus Fire Watch](#)

[Campus Fire Safety](#)

[NFPA - National Fire Protection Association](#)

[International Code Council](#)

[CSHEMA](#)

[Get to Know Smoke Alarms](#)

[Smoke Alarm Safety Tip Sheet for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing](#)

[Home Safety for People with Disabilities](#)

[Hoverboard Policy](#)

## University of California Participates in the 30th Anniversary National CERT Conference

By: James Caesar, Emergency Manager, UCSB

The UCSB Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) was represented by the Campus Emergency Manager Jim Caesar, the UCSB Student CERT Club President Amanda McKenna, Vice President Taylor Lockmann, and Treasurer Karla Jerez at the National CERT Conference held in Los Angeles September 8-10, 2016. Jim Caesar was a member of the conference planning team and co-presented with Arpen Shadkamyian (UCLA) the FEMA 4 hour Advanced CERT training module "Leadership for Success". The UCSB CERT club members were honored to meet the founder of CERT (1985), Frank Borden. Mr. Borden, retired LA City Fire, was even more impressed to see UCSB students representing the future of CERT!



"The National CERT Conference was such an incredible experience! We grew as leaders and as a team, and learned so much we'll be able to apply to our own program. Our sincerest thanks to everyone that helped make this opportunity possible."  
- 3rd year UCSB student and Campus CERT Club Vice President Taylor Lockmann

## UPCOMING EDITIONS

**November:** Preparedness

**December/January:** Family Safety & Security

**February:** Industrial Safety/Hazardous Operations

## FEEDBACK, PLEASE

Send an email to [EHS@ucop.edu](mailto:EHS@ucop.edu) to submit your comments on the October issue or to suggest content ideas for future issues. We look forward to hearing from you!