Why Do They Keep Calling Me?

After the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech in early 2007, institutions of higher education began to look at better ways of notifying students, faculty and staff of emergency situations. Although Boston University, with Boston Medical Center, had implemented an automatic notification system for emergency response personnel, President Robert Brown put a committee together to fast track a university-wide notification system.

Within six months, the University rolled out the BU Alert System. BU Alert is an emergency notification system that will help ensure rapid and reliable mass communication to students, faculty, and staff. The BU Alert system is designed to communicate with cell phones (text and voice messages), landlines, e-mail systems, and pagers during a crisis or time-sensitive situation on the Boston University Charles River and Medical campuses. The BU Alert System is tested once each semester and the message is clearly identified as a test.

You will receive a message when a situation arises that disrupts normal University operations and that may place students, faculty, staff, visitors, or property at risk. The University's Emergency Management and Response Team will send out a BU Alert notification message only after carefully assessing a situation and determining that it is serious enough to warrant universal notification.

There are three things you should do when you receive a BU Alert notification message:

1. **Read the message! Don’t ignore it!**
   - During classes, professors may have their cell phones turned off. If you're in a classroom, please advise the professor so that he or she may assist you in taking appropriate action.
   - If you're in your residence, let those you live with know about the alert. If you're at work, let your coworkers know about the alert. It’s very important to help spread word of the emergency notification!

2. **Alert other people.** During classes, professors may have their cell phones turned off. If you're in a classroom, please advise the professor so that he or she may assist you in taking appropriate action. If you're in your residence, let those you live with know about the alert. If you're at work, let your coworkers know about the alert. It’s very important to help spread word of the emergency notification!

3. **Follow the instructions given with the message.** The instructions will be direct and specific to the particular situation. Be sure to follow them carefully. Do not deviate from the instructions provided. **DO NOT CALL THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH QUESTIONS EXCEPT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY OR IF YOU ARE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER!** If the situation requires it, additional messages will be transmitted to update you.

While the BU Alert system is mandatory for all students, faculty and staff, it may not be in the program. To enroll in this program or change your cell phone telephone information, simply go to the Personal Information section on either the Boston University Student Link or Employee Link and update the information there. For more information on BU Alert, use the link [http://www.bu.edu/emergency/bualert/index.shtml](http://www.bu.edu/emergency/bualert/index.shtml)

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**Code Green at Medical Campus**

During the past two years, episodes of violence have occurred on our nation's university campuses. Although we are fortunate that we have had no such incidents, ensuring a safe campus environment is essential.

Last year, Boston Medical Center (BMC) implemented a Code Green policy in an effort to identify potential violence in the workplace. BMC is now implementing a Code Green policy.

In the event of a Code Green emergency, call Public Safety by dialing extension 4-4444. Use the term Code Green, an instantly recognizable term, when alerting Public Safety about an act of violence or imminent threat of an act of violence in the classroom, workplace or research laboratory. Please note that this new policy is in effect only on the Medical Campus.


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**Emergency Response Flip Charts**

Recently the Office of Environmental Health and Safety improved Boston University's emergency instructions and safety procedures signage, otherwise known as the flip charts. Accordingly the flip charts were revised and replaced. The newer flip charts are posted and note the revision month and year, i.e. (August 2008). If the flip chart

*continued overleaf*
Before beginning work in the lab, you should make note of the following:

1. Emergency telephone numbers
2. Emergency exits and evacuation routes
3. Eyewash and deluge showers
4. Fire extinguishers, Fire Alarms
5. Chemical spill kits
6. Door signage

In your work area notes a different revision date, contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at 8-8830.

The new chart lists where to get more information and the appropriate responses for all types of emergencies, including what to do and who to call. These charts are located through-out the Boston University Campus, and localized near telephones.

The flip charts are designed to contain much of the material found in the Chemical Hygiene Plan. However, the information is formatted in a fashion, so that the critical information is literally at your fingertips.

In the event of an emergency situation, the flip chart is often referred to as the single best resource.

Take a look at your work environment from a risk assessment position. Write down all the possible emergency situations that could potentially affect your area. Then flip through the flip chart, and note the “control response” associated with the potential risk. Now you have familiarized yourself with knowledgeable information that will allow you to take action.

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LASC Training Program

LASC provides monthly scheduled trainings for research staff. The training schedule is advertised on the LASC web site calendar www.bu.edu/research/compliance/lasc/. Training sessions include: LASC orientation, rodent handling session, non-human primate B, virus training, and continuing educational seminars. The trainer (Ranjini Abraham, DVM) coordinates and provides training with customized power point presentations followed by wet labs on common procedures such as anesthesia methods, genotyping procedures, estrus detection, sexing, weaning, breeding, injection sites procedures, species specific handling, organs harvesting procedures, and euthanasia methods. For further information, visit the LASC website or contact Dr. Abraham at rrabrah@bu.edu.

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Training Corner

Lab Safety Training:
Questions call OEHS, 638-8830

Keefe Auditorium:
3/25/09 .................. 2:00 - 3:30pm
3/28/09 .................. 2:00 - 3:30pm
4/24/09 .................. 9:30 - 11:30pm
5/13/09 .................. 9:30 - 11:00pm

Charles River Campus (CRC):
PHO-901, tel: 617-353-4094
3/23/09 .................. 3:00 - 5:00pm

Awaiting additional dates & times

Basic Radiation Safety Training
(Office of Medical Physics & Radiation Safety), tel: 617-638-7052
3/25/09 .................. 1:00 - 3:30pm
4/21/09 .................. 9:30 - 12:00pm
4/22/09 .................. 1:00 - 3:30pm
5/19/09 .................. 9:30 - 12:00pm