



POLICY STATEMENT 69
UNIVERSITY OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

POLICY DIGEST

Primary Monitoring Unit: Facility Services
Initially Issued: June 19, 2000
Last Revised: March 18, 2022

I. PURPOSE

To establish a comprehensive occupational and environmental safety policy that facilitates the protection of life and property by providing a campus work and learning environment that is free of recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause injury, illness, or property damage.

To set forth safety and environmental responsibilities, provide support for safety rules and procedures, and to establish activities/programs that are necessary for the successful implementation of the University's occupational and environmental safety program.

II. GENERAL POLICY

The University has a strong commitment to the health and safety of all employees, students, and visitors at LSU Eunice. Recognizing that a healthy environment is critical to the quality of life of all living organisms, LSU Eunice is committed to protecting the environment from harm due to campus operations and activities. This includes protecting the air, both indoors and out, lakes, and streams and grounds. In keeping with these commitments, the Office of Facility Services shall have the authority to enforce compliance with the requirements referenced in this policy, and other applicable environmental and safety regulations.

Enforcement action will be taken only after consultation with senior administration, unless there is an immediate danger to the health and safety of personnel or an immediate danger to University property. In the event of immediate danger or major noncompliance, the Director of Facility Services will be responsible for taking any actions, including facility closure, required for protection of the health and safety of personnel or protection of University property. The Director of Facility Services will notify central administration of any facility closures. Remedial actions will be required before a closed facility will be reopened.

In keeping with this commitment, the University Occupational and Environmental Safety Policy is as follows:

- A. In the interest of providing the safest environment possible for employees, students and visitors, University activities, including, but not limited to, the design, construction, operation and maintenance of University facilities, will be conducted in accordance with applicable safety codes such as National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME),

42 and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and by all governmental safety
43 and environmental standards, including, but not limited to, those issued by the Louisiana
44 State Fire Marshal, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA),
45 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
46 (LDEQ), Department of Transportation (DOT), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
47 and other similar agencies state, federal, or local agencies. Guidelines of the State
48 Office of Risk Management (ORM) will form the foundation for the University Safety
49 Program.

50 B. Safety and environmental rules and procedures in the [LSU Eunice Safety Manual](#) are
51 very important to the safety program, and shall be vigorously enforced by supervision,
52 using disciplinary action where appropriate. In addition to enforcement activities,
53 supervisors are responsible for planning and assigning work that is within the training,
54 capability, and skills of the workers.

55 C. Critical program elements such as periodic safety inspections, safety training, accident
56 investigations, and safety meetings shall be implemented for all work groups as outlined
57 in the [LSU Eunice Safety Manual](#).

58 D. Recognizing that proper training is critical to employee safety, the University will provide
59 safety and skills training to achieve a highly skilled and safe work force.

60 **III. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

61 It is the University's intent to provide a safe environment that is conducive to studying, learning,
62 and working, and to minimize any recognized hazards. Any situation or behavior that disrupts
63 the studying, learning, or working process, or introduces a hazard, is prohibited. The use of
64 classrooms for activities other than scheduled classes must first be approved by the Registrar's
65 Office. Other spaces, such as conference rooms and common spaces may be reserved through
66 the [Business Office Website](#) using the [Facility Request Form](#).¹ Smoking is prohibited in all
67 University learning and working environments. All animals, except those specifically required for
68 research or teaching purposes, or those that are ADA approved, are prohibited in all University
69 facilities, including all learning and working environments. Learning and working environments
70 include classrooms, studios, laboratories, offices, conference facilities, seminar rooms, practice
71 rooms, libraries, designated study areas, and carrels.

72 Any person using outdoor areas of the LSU Eunice campus has the responsibility of always
73 maintaining control of their animals.

74 **IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

75 A. Each employee is responsible for his/her own safety, and for promoting the safety of
76 their co-workers. Employees must report all safety and environmental concerns relating
77 to facilities or procedures. Failure to follow appropriate safety standards may result in
78 disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

79 B. Vice Chancellors, Directors, and Department Heads shall implement the safety and

¹ Note that two different forms exist on the Business Office Website – one for University related groups and one for the general public use.

80 environmental program in their areas of administrative responsibility and shall be
81 accountable through their areas of administrative channels for the control of accidents
82 and hazardous exposures in the work environment. They shall also set an example for
83 environmental control by emphasizing and adopting good environmental practices in
84 processes and procedures, including, but not limited to, prudent purchasing and the
85 appropriate use and disposal of chemicals and materials. LSU Eunice is subject to
86 environmental regulations promulgated and enforced by local, state, and federal
87 environmental agencies. Any individual or group found to be in violation of these
88 regulations will be potentially responsible for fines levied by the enforcement authorities
89 and will be subject to other appropriate corrective action.

90 C. The Director of Facilities Services is the principal provider/coordinator of all University
91 safety and environmental requirements, including, but not limited to:

- 92 1. Providing resources for the identification, evaluation, and control of hazardous
93 situations,
- 94 2. Providing safety, security criteria, and assessments for research and teaching labs
95 working with potentially hazardous chemicals, biological or physical agents or
96 processes,
- 97 3. Developing and issuing rules and procedures,
- 98 4. Consulting with employees and management, and
- 99 5. Providing safety training, hazardous waste disposal, and occupational safety and
100 health exposure evaluations.

101 The Director of Facility Services, jointly with environmental permit holders, will monitor
102 laws and regulatory rules and procedures relating to the environment, act as contact
103 point for interface with environmental regulatory agencies such as the Louisiana
104 Department of Environmental Quality (LADEQ), US Environmental Protection Agency
105 (EPA) and the City of Eunice on regulatory issues, and interface with legal
106 representatives for the University in citations/disputes on environmental issues.

107 NOTE: Radiation safety is the responsibility of the Radiation Officer on campus.

108 D. The University Safety Committee is an advisory committee reporting to the Director of
109 Facility Services. The University Safety Committee shall provide recommendations to
110 the administration that will enhance the University Environmental Health and Safety
111 Program.

112 **V. CHEMICAL USE AND RESEARCH – SAFETY AND SECURITY**

113 Principal investigators and unit heads assure safety and environmental compliance through
114 activities such as inventory control and reporting as required by Director of Facility Services;
115 supervising and training laboratory and support workers to assure safety and security;
116 cooperating with inspections and investigations; and correcting deficiencies identified in these
117 activities.

118 **VI. BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH – SAFETY AND SECURITY**

119 Principal investigators' and unit heads' responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

120 A. Supervising and directing laboratory and support personnel;

121 B. Ensuring that lab personnel have proper training; and

122 C. Providing access to labs for inspections and assuring that prompt corrective action is
123 employed upon notice of a safety/security violation or concern.

124 **VII. SOURCES**

125 LSU A&M Policy Statement 19: [Environmental Health & Safety](#)

126 LSU AG Center Policy Statement 33: [Occupational and Environmental Safety](#)

127 Louisiana Office of Risk Management Loss Prevention Manual, Exhibit B: [Management Policy](#)
128 [Statement Guidelines](#) (located in the General Safety Program)