

SAFETY MATTERS

MARCH 2017

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the March 2017 edition of Safety Matters

TEAM NEWS

As you will know Moira Simpson left her role as Health and Safety Services, Director at the end of October and we were delighted to welcome her replacement, Jenny McGrother.



Jenny has been in post since October having joined us from AWE. Her role there was to support compliance in high risk activities but prior to that she had ten years working for the HSE in an enforcement role.

It has been a hectic period since her arrival but hopefully Jenny has already had the opportunity to meet many of you. She can be contacted on 0118 378 8889 or j.mcgrother@reading.ac.uk

Also joining the team in February was Abhishek Upadhyay as Biological and Scientific Adviser.



Abhishek joins us from the University of Bath and takes up the role vacated by Gretta Roberts in October. He can be contacted on 0118 378 8887 or ora.upadhyay@reading.ac.uk

FIRE SAFETY SPECIAL

There have been a number of fire related incidents and news items recently that we would like to tell you about

Samsung Galaxy Note 7 Mobile Phones

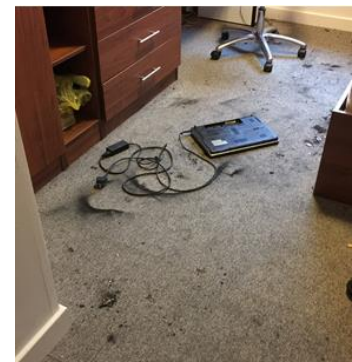
These phones have been reported to have burst into flames even when not on charge. It appears that the lithium batteries inside the phone are the cause of the fires. If you own or use one of these phones and if you have not already done so you should immediately switch the phone

off and do not use it again. As of 13 Oct 16 Samsung is recalling all this model of phone including replacements that may have been sent out or supplied to you previously. The University of Reading IT Services Department do not supply this make and model of phone so any Samsung Galaxy Note 7 units on site will be privately owned by staff, students and others.

Laptop Fire

Very recently in one of our Halls of Residence a student resident suffered minor burns after attempting to put a burning laptop into a waste bin. The cause of the fire was attributed to a faulty unbranded laptop battery, recently purchased online.

The resident left the laptop to charge overnight and was woken by a popping sound, followed by the battery exploding. This launched the laptop off the desk at which stage it caught on fire.



Please be cautious about buying unbranded batteries on line - our advice is get the proprietary battery for your equipment (i.e. if you have a HP laptop buy a HP battery) – it may be more expensive but will be safer.

Tumble Dryer Fires

Although we have had not had a fire at the University of Reading involving a tumble dryer, hardly a day goes by without another report in the news about a fire involving a tumble dryer. We do have a few tumble dryers in use at the University and we have checked to see if any of these have been subject to manufactures recall. None of the dryers in use at the University are currently subject to recall at the moment.



The main reason for a tumble dryer to catch fire is a clogged up lint filter. Depending on the frequency of use of the dryer the lint filter may need cleaning on a daily basis. Also, make sure that the vent pipe (if fitted – some condenser dryers do not need one) is not blocked or kinked in any way. Finally do not put any materials that have

been used for mopping up flammable liquids in the dryer.

Tumble dryers should never be left running unsupervised whether at work or at home. If you have a tumble dryer at home then we advise you identify the make and model and check with the manufacturer if it is been subject to product recall.

NEAR MISSES ON THE UP!

Actually that is good news

Reporting of near miss incidents continues to increase following our ongoing campaign to raise their importance. Reporting these incidents means that we can investigate and learn from them, with an aim at preventing a repeat event which could cause an injury or damage. So thank you to those of you who reported these events and please keep them coming. If you would like to report a near miss, accident or incident click here [Report an Incident online - University of Reading](#)

FORTHCOMING TRAINING

The 2016/2017 H&S training programme courses is now available on the H&S Services training webpages by clicking here

[Course Details - University of Reading](#)

Some of the courses coming up in the next few weeks include:

[First aid courses:](#)

First aid at work certificate refresher course – 12th & 13th June 2017

Automatic External Defibrillator training for first aiders – 6^t

Wednesday 15th March 2017

Tuesday 2nd May 2017

[Fire safety courses:](#)

Fire Precautions and Fire Fighting for Nominated Personnel– 23rd March 2017,

6th June 2017,

Fire evacuation chair training – 17th May 2017

Fire warden training – 26th April 2017

14^t June 2017

[Other courses:](#)

Managing H&S for H&S Coordinators – 6th June

Accident and Incident Investigation – 22nd March

If you would like to attend any of the above courses please use [Employee self service](#) booking system and search for the course using the Learning Activity Search button in the Learning area. If you have any problems with this booking method, or if you are a postgraduate student, please contact us to book a place by emailing safety@reading.ac.uk.

CONTACT THE TEAM

For help and advice from H&S Services please contact safety@reading.ac.uk or telephone 0118 378 8888