

Christopher Newport University

Policy: Environmental Health and Safety Policy

Policy Number: 7015

Executive Oversight: Vice President for Facilities and Campus Operations
Contact Office: Environmental Health and Safety
Frequency of Review: Biennially
Date of Last Review: April 2025

A. PURPOSE

Christopher Newport University is committed to maintaining a safe working, learning, and living environment for faculty, staff, students and visitors. The purpose of this policy is to prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries; increase safety awareness; and meet or exceed health, safety and environmental requirements of federal, state, and local agencies by establishing authority and assigning responsibility for the development, implementation and regular review of University practices and programs necessary to meet these goals.

B. POLICY STATEMENT

Every employee of Christopher Newport plays a role in creating, supporting and maintaining a safe and healthy environment on campus by being thoroughly familiar with and conducting their activities in conformance with the strategies, standards and processes adopted by the University's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department and cooperating in their implementation. All employees, students, and volunteers shall participate in all health and safety training to ensure safe and healthy operations and activities as necessary. Contractors are required to comply with all applicable University safety policies and programs as well as all federal, state and local health and safety requirements when working on University Facilities.

C. PROCEDURES

In consultation with any and all affected offices, the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department shall identify and evaluate health and safety hazards on University Facilities and shall determine appropriate strategies for elimination or management, mitigation and control of such hazards. The Director of EHS shall direct and oversee the development of standards, processes and programs; and the provision of training necessary to maintain a safe working, learning and living environment, and to comply with all federal, state and local workplace health and safety laws, regulations and standards.

The EHS Department shall facilitate training of faculty, staff and students aimed at reducing the risk of accident, injury or illness, fires, hazardous materials incidents, and laboratory accidents.

The EHS Department shall provide guidance documents for specific programs to facilitate compliance with relevant environmental, health and safety laws, regulations, and standards, including occupational safety and health, environmental compliance and protection, radiation safety, chemical safety, laboratory and research safety, fire and life safety, and hazardous waste management.

The EHS Department shall monitor compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and EHS Department guidance documents and identify noncompliant situations and recommend improvements and corrective actions.

The EHS Department shall communicate the relevant standards, processes, programs, and training needs to the affected offices. Respective directors, department heads, chairs and supervisors shall be responsible for implementation.

D. DEFINITIONS

University Facilities: All buildings and grounds owned, leased, operated, or maintained by Christopher Newport University, wherever located and for whatever purpose used.

E. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

Approved By: Policy Committee, March 4, 2020

Revision #1: Policy Committee, January 12, 2023

Revision #2: Policy Committee, April 28, 2025

F. NEXT REVIEW DATE: Spring 2027