

# Safety

# Spotlight

Quarterly Newsletter for Safety and Loss Prevention

SUMMER 2009 VOL. 11; No.3

## OUTDOOR NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

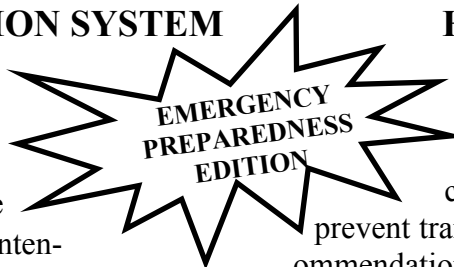
This summer, UND installed an outdoor emergency siren system. They are placed strategically throughout campus at Tulane Drive (north of Facilities parking lot), Centennial Drive (next to Babcock Hall), Second Avenue (northwest of Memorial Stadium) and Princeton Street (near the Wellness Center). UND's system is set up as a companion to the Grand Forks siren system, which doesn't reach all portions of the campus.

The sirens will carry several digital messages which can be used in a variety of situations, such as the sighting of tornadoes or the need to evacuate the campus. The system can also be used as a public address system. Aside from periodic testing, the system will only be used in emergency situations.

The sirens are just one way of communicating emergency situations throughout campus. Other methods include using the NotiFind System, which uses cell and landline telephones and text messaging capabilities to deliver messages. UND also makes use of other mass notification tools, such as its web page, e-mail, and the mass media.

## WINNERS!

Congratulations! Two UND employees won the spring *Safety Spotlight* puzzle challenge. Each winner received a gift certificate to the UND Bookstore Café. Watch for more chances to win in future *Safety Spotlight* newsletters!



## H1N1 PREPAREDNESS

Flu season is approaching and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) anticipates that the H1N1 virus will co-circulate with the seasonal flu. To help prevent transmission, the CDC has made these recommendations:

-If you feel ill, stay home. Currently, the CDC is recommending that if you have a fever, stay home and away from others until you are fever free for 24 hours (100 degrees F or less), without the aid of fever reducing medication.

-Cover your sneezes and coughs with your elbow, the inside of your arm, or a tissue. Do not use your hands to cover your cough.

-Wash your hands often!

-Business continuity plans should be developed to prepare if staff become ill and have to miss work.

-Avoid touching your face and mouth.

### U2 SAFETY RELATED CLASSES

CLASS:	DATE:
Defensive Driving	9/17 and 9/30 10/15 and 11/5
Laboratory Safety	9/10
ABC's of Fire Extinguishers	9/14
Radiation Safety	9/9



## SHELTER IN PLACE

On January 18, 2002 a train derailed in Minot, North Dakota releasing a cloud of anhydrous ammonia. Citizens in surrounding areas were notified to shelter in place for their safety until the toxic cloud passed. An event like this could happen in Grand Forks, and it's important to understand the definition of various emergency terms in order to act quickly.

### What is "Shelter in place"?

"Shelter In Place" notifications occur when the conditions outside of a building are not safe for evacuation, such as a chemical release. The safest and quickest way to respond is to "shelter in place" and check your emergency notification sources for more information.

If a "shelter in place" occurs, it can happen very quickly with very little time to prepare. Be aware of your surroundings and be ready to take action if:

- You hear a strange sound like an explosion.
- See a vapor cloud.
- Smell strange odors.
- Feel ill or your eyes begin to burn.

If you receive notification to shelter in place through an emergency notification system, follow these steps:

1. Move inside a building (if not already inside).
2. Move to an interior room with few windows.
3. Close all windows and doors.
4. Turn off ventilation systems (i.e. heating and AC) if possible for many UND buildings, this can be done remotely from the 24-hr. Communications Center.
5. Listen to your local radio or TV. Check websites for updates.

If it is not possible to move inside a building and you are in a vehicle, close all windows and shut all manual vents. Turn off the ventilation system. Turn on the radio to listen for emergency information.

## POLICY UPDATES

Approved by the Loss Control Committee:  
General Safety Incident Reporting  
Fire/Life Safety—Combustible Storage  
Emergency Preparedness—First Aid Kits

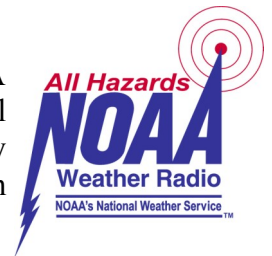
## NOAA WEATHER RADIO

A NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) Weather Radio receives National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts, and other hazardous information 24 hours a day.

The National Weather Service uses special radio frequencies to broadcast emergency messages that can be received by NOAA Radios. The radios are equipped with a special alert that sounds before an emergency message is relayed. These are the same radios that emergency responders and meteorologists use to be alerted by the National Weather Service that severe weather is forming in the area.

The NOAA Weather Radio can also be used to retrieve around the clock weather reports and information. The broadcast is designed to suit local needs, by relaying local forecasts and regional conditions, for example, relaying the current river level in flood situations.

You can purchase a NOAA Weather Radio at stores that sell electronics. They come in many styles to suit everyone's needs with prices ranging from \$20-\$200.



For more information, check online at the National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

