

### Roofing Projects

Roofing repairs and re-roofing of buildings commonly happen more frequently during the summer months. This work is essential in preventing water damage and mould growth. During roofing you may notice strong odours either outdoors or inside buildings.

During roofing, asphalt, which is a petroleum-based product, is heated in kettles which generate odours. These odours can result in symptoms in some people. The following are some frequently-asked questions about the health hazards of the odours from roofing asphalt:

**Q: I smell tar odours, have a headache and feel nauseous. Am I being overexposed to a chemical?**

A: The sulphur compounds in roofing asphalt have very low odour thresholds, making it very noticeable. Short-term symptoms of headaches, dizziness, nausea and lung irritation are common with asphalt odours, and should resolve shortly after you are away from the smell.

**Q: Should I be worried about long-term health effects?**

A: Long-term health effects are not expected with exposure at the levels found inside buildings during roofing projects.

**Q: I have asthma, bronchitis and other lung problems. Can inhalation of asphalt odours aggravate my condition?**

A: Yes, asphalt odours can irritate the respiratory tract and aggravate the condition of a person with asthma or other lung conditions. People with asthma should avoid breathing asphalt fumes, and may require accommodation. If you require accommodation, notify your supervisor.

During roofing projects, a contact person is designated in each department to receive updates on the project and report concerns to Plant Operations. To read more about how roofing odours can be minimized and how to report concerns, refer to Safety Office website.

### Idling Control Guideline

The Main Campus Joint Health & Safety Committee has endorsed introduction of a Idling Control Guideline UW based on a Region of Waterloo program. The guideline states that idling be avoided by all vehicles with some exceptions for specified work and safety purposes. **If your vehicle is going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn off the engine. In addition to improving our air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this initiative saves money on fuel!**

Departments are asked to make their vehicle operators aware of the guideline. For more information refer to Safety Office website. Installation of 'No Idling' signage around loading docks and entrances is planned to educate campus visitors and contractors.

### First Aid with CPR Courses

Safety Office is offering First Aid with CPR courses at no cost for up to 10% of a department's Faculty/Staff on: June 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17, 2009. Register online at Safety Office website.

### Workplace Violence Prevention

A program developed by Safety Office in co-operation with UW Police. Departments are required to complete Workplace Violence Assessment Surveys.

### Field Work Risk Management

Refers to any activity undertaken by members of the University in any location external to UW campuses for the purpose of research, study, training or learning. Completion of various forms is required before such an activity takes place.

### Electrical Safety

- Ground-fault interrupters (GFIs) are required when using electrical equipment in wet locations or outdoors.
- Do not use extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Circuit breaker panels must be easily accessible and clearly marked.

### Certification Mandatory

The Electrical Safety Code requires that electrical equipment must be approved by the Electrical Safety Authority.

### Safety Office Website

"Safety Starts with You @ Waterloo" is distributed through UW's health and safety community.

If you have suggestions contact Safety Office x33587 or [safety@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:safety@uwaterloo.ca)