# Lehigh University

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## Environmental Health and Safety by Randy Shebby

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#### **UGGGH Winter!**

Like it or not winter is just around the corner. Now is the time to prepare for unexpected emergencies such as power failure, school closings, car trouble etc. Be prepared. Update your safety plan and contact list. Make sure phone numbers are current. Have a plan ready in the event we lose power. Identify what equipment is on emergency back up power. Have a plan to turn off equipment so an electrical surge does not occur when you power up. Be sure to have someone available to care for animals. Be prepared!

### Paper **Respirators**



So you want to wear a paper respirator? You should ensure the paper respirator is what you need - they are a particulate respirator and do not protect against vapors or gases. You will need to review Appendix D of the OSHA standard (www.osha.gov). This section provides a brief overview of paper particulate respirators. For information about respirator use contact Elaine Kuchera (610-758-4248) at EH&S.

**Stay Healthy** - Make an effort this year to stay healthy. Begin by eating and drinking properly, getting plenty of sleep and keeping your hands clean. Most often we acquire germs through contact with items commonly used by other people - computer keyboards, door handles, telephones, etc. These things are often unavoidable. Washing your hands will reduce the chance of germs causing an illness. If possible wipe down your computer keyboard before using. Carry hand disinfectant if restrooms are not immediately available or if you are away from home.



**LiPo's** - Lithium Polymer batteries have become popular for powering devices like remote-controlled vehicles and aircraft. They were also used for hoverboards and installed in some cell phones and computers. LiPo's are very sensitive to the amount of charge they can receive. They can become overcharged and start fires such as the one shown below. Li Po's can also cause fires if it becomes punctured. The fires are very difficult to extinguish.



For this reason LiPo's are not to be used (charged or stored) in living areas such as residence halls. Li Po's must be monitored at all times whether charging or discharging. A Li Po battery safety video is available online from EH&S.



**PPE** - If you are working with or near chemicals, powders or gases you need to wear a lab coat, gloves, and safety glasses. You must also wear clothing that covers your legs and shoes that completely cover your feet. This is an OSHA requirement.

#### SDS

**Safety Data Sheets** Review before you use!

Did You know? The staff at EH&S are responsible for the health and safety of staff, students and faculty. EH&S sees that the University meets and maintains safety and environmental requirements. This includes managing hazardous waste, complying with federal safety and health requirements and reviewing laboratory processes. Before commitments are made involving safety or health, departments are to first consult with EH&S to ensure they meet regulatory compliance.

