Focus on Residence Hall Life Safety:
The Fire Safety Academy

On August 14, 2008, 160 resident advisors (RAs), along with their residence hall directors (RHDs) participated in the 2nd Annual Fire Safety Academy. Also attending were 10 residence advisors from SUNY Upstate Medical Center and a LeMoyne College faculty member.

Organized by Syracuse University’s Department of Safety and Office of Residence Life, in partnership with the City of Syracuse Fire, and New York Office of Fire Prevention and Control, and with the participation of SU Ambulance and SU Housing Unit, FIXit Zone, the Fire Safety Academy took place in several locations on Mount Olympus.

According to William Longcore, Associate Director of Residence Life, the University remains committed to preparing its staff for emergency situations in residence halls. Participation in the annual fire academy provides a valuable combination of useful information, hands-on training and exposure to scenarios that are as close to the real thing as one can get without actually being in a fire.

The Academy’s activities were arranged in five different training modules.

1. Navigating through a smoke-filled hallway.
2. Observing a sprinkler head extinguish a fire.
3. Participating in fire extinguisher training.
4. Learning and discussing University policy on fire safety.
5. Identifying mock fire safety hazards in a residence hall room.

The Academy concluded when the entire group convened to observe a mock residence hall burn demonstration. The live burn of the rooms gave RAs and RHDs an appreciation for the following: how fast a fire can spread in a short amount of time, the amount of smoke and heat generated by a fire, how important it is to evacuate a building/residence hall as soon as possible following the discovery of fire, how difficult it is to evacuate a building that is filling with smoke and how effective sprinklers are in extinguishing a fire. Participants learned that each residence hall is sprinklered.

Graduates of the Academy gained knowledge about fire safety and obtained hands-on training including emergency procedures to deal with a fire. In addition, RAs, and RHDs had the opportunity to directly interact with City of Syracuse Fire and other emergency responders. RAs and RHDs will be able to share their experiences with their residents during floor meetings.

For more information on the fire safety academy, contact John Rossiter, Manager of the SU Safety Department at 443-5475 or jarossit@syr.edu. Additional photographs from the August 14th Academy can be found on Safety’s website:
http://safety.syr.edu/safety/
Employee Spotlight

Please welcome Environmental Health’s newest staff member Scott Kelley who joined us on August 25th as a Hazardous Waste Operation’s Assistant. Scott has been with the University for over 20 years working as a Biology Research Technician. His new responsibilities will include all aspects in the proper management of hazardous waste including pick-ups, characterization, storage, transport and record keeping. Scott and his wife, Jon Elle, have two children.

Please welcome Risk Management’s newest staff member Karen Dixon-Cherebin who joined us in September as the Workers’ Compensation Assistant. Karen comes to Risk Management with 20 years of insurance experience. Her responsibilities include reviewing medical bills and processing payments, authorizing medical treatment, responding to employee and medical provider questions and assisting/supporting the Workers’ Compensation Claims Specialist. Karen and her husband, Tony, have two children.

Please welcome the Safety Department’s newest Fire/Safety Inspector, David Fullam who joined us in February 2008. Dave is a New York State Certified Fire Inspector, has Hazardous Materials Operations status, and is a New York State Certified Fire Instructor. Dave is a retired Fire Lieutenant from the Fire Department, City of New York. Dave is responsible for overseeing the East Zone buildings’ fire/safety compliance issues. Dave lives in Manlius with his wife, Lynda, and their two daughters.

Join us in congratulating our employees for years of service recognition. Celebrating 5 years of service are Christine Coe and Scott Evener from the Safety Department, Michaele DeHart from Risk Management and George Caporin and Tim Coughlin from the Environmental Health Office. Celebrating 20 years of service are James McCumber and Ann Meany from the Environmental Health Office.

Emergency Management

In February 2008, Penn State University representatives traveled to Syracuse University to meet with administrators from Auxiliary Services, Campus Planning, Design & Construction, News Services, Parking, Physical Plant, Public Safety, Safety and Risk Management to discuss best practices and to exchange ideas on inclement winter weather emergency management.

Topics included emergency notifications, essential personnel, transportation, government road closures, table top exercises, and utility services. Their visit included a tour of the Carrier Dome, and a meeting with Pete Alberti, Commissioner of the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Management.

To review additional pictures from the Penn State University visit, go to http://riskmanagement.syr.edu

Upcoming Workshop

Minors on Campus - The Risk Management Department is hosting a Minors on Campus Risk Awareness Luncheon Workshop on Wednesday, November 5th, from noon– 3:00 pm at the Goldstein Alumni & Faculty Center. The workshop will focus on legal liabilities and risk management best practices.

Presenters are representatives from Risk Management, Bond, Schoeneck & King, and Arthur J. Gallagher (SU’s Liability Insurance broker). Registration details are available on the Risk Management Department website at http://riskmanagement.syr.edu