**TOOLBOX TALK – Communicating Safety Daily**

Each June, the National Safety Council (NSC) celebrates National Safety Month as a time to bring attention to key safety issues. This year’s slogan is “SAFETY: It takes all of us.

” Here are some ideas to communicate safety daily:

• Share a daily tip with your co-workers. There are tips available through the National Safety Council web site. The National Fire Protection Association offers free safety tip sheets on a variety of fire and life safety topics, a quick download to spread the word about fire safety. Other organizations, to be found through a web search, also provide free safety tips. EHS Safe Operating Procedures lend themselves well to being shared, point by point, as a daily tip.

Incorporate “safety” into your conversations with co-workers, e.g.,

* It looks like you need help lifting that safely. Can I help?
* Thanks for cleaning up that spill. That will keep us from slipping and falling!
* Are you having a safe day? I am!
* Did you hear about the injury (near-miss) reported in the EHS listserv? That’s good information I plan to use.
* Wow, that could have been bad! I am going to share this near-miss through the EHS Near-Miss/Close Call Reporter.
* What was your favorite safety tip from our recent safety meeting?
* Did you read about the recent procedure change that will take a bit longer? I think doing the task more safely is worth the time!
* Participate in your department/area/facility safety committee. Research shows that where there are safety committees there are fewer workplace injuries. Contact EHS if you are interested in helping start a safety committee for your area.

The NSC celebration reinforces the ethic recommended by the American Chemical Society (ACS), Creating Safety Cultures in Academic Institutions report:

• **Value safety:** Safety is an integral part of what one does, its automatic, and it does not change its priorities. It is never questioned and never compromised.

• **Work safely:** One continues to learn about safety, learns to recognize hazards, assesses the risks of hazards, manages the risk of hazards, and prepares to handle emergencies.

• **Prevent at-risk behavior:** One does not cut corners or bypass safety measures in the laboratory (or other work environment) and shares this information with others, as needed.

• **Promote safety:** One encourages and acknowledges others in working safely.

• **Accept responsibility for safety**: One takes steps to work safely, setting a positive example for others, and being accountable for safety.