



IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T “HERD”



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Protecting the Public Health at Tufts

By Stephen R. Larson, TEHS Director

WHAT is public health?

Public Health is the science and art of preventing disease and injury through the organized efforts of society, the community and individuals. Unlike medicine, public health studies patterns of disease and injury in a population of individuals to determine effective preventive measures.

Tufts University, like any small town, is a community. The health of the community is protected by following good public health practices.

- Food and drinking water can transmit disease if not protected from contamination while stored, processed and distributed to each member of the community.
- Sources of disease such as sewage and solid waste must be controlled at all times to prevent contact with hazardous agents.

- Housing must be constructed and maintained to ensure that healthful conditions are maintained at all times.
- Communicable diseases can be prevented by following accepted sanitation practices in sports and recreation facilities.

The responsibility for protecting the public health is shared by many organizations at Tufts: Tufts Dining Services and Tufts Catering has an active food safety program to ensure that all food served is of high quality.

Many of the tasks performed by Tufts Facilities Services are critical to providing safe water and prevention of sewage and other waste problems. Student Health provides medical services and surveillance of diseases of injuries among its student patients. The staff involved with sports, athletics, and recreation have essential roles in providing safe equipment and facilities. Tufts is committed to partnering with local, state and federal public health agencies in protecting the health of the community and complying with the many codes, and guidelines that exist to achieve this goal.



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Appropriate Use for Laser Pointers

By Geoffrey C. Sirr

THE American National Standards Institute (ANSI) provides guidance for the safe use of laser and laser systems as published in ANSI Z136 series. Growing concern about high powered laser pointers and the increased potential for injury from such devices have caused many laser safety professionals in the workplace to reexamine the

associated risk of eye injury. ANSI recommends that for application involving demonstrations, displays, exhibition and lectures that only Class 1 or Class 2 devices should be used in unsupervised areas unless under the control of experienced well-trained operators. Class 1 and Class 2 lasers pose little risk of eye hazard unless deliberately misused. Class 3 and 4 lasers

have the potential to cause serious eye injury particularly if not used properly. Currently laser pointers are very inexpensive, ubiquitous and more powerful than before. When considering these factors the ability to control laser exposure becomes more complex. Often the misuse of such devices involves members of the public that are not trained in

laser safety or knowledgeable of the hazards associated with laser pointers. Eye problems most commonly associated with traditional laser pointers do not take the form of permanent damage. However, if the exposure is prolonged or optical aids are introduced, it can cause damage to the eye.

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Appropriate Use for Laser Pointers

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Eye related damage can result in temporary flash blindness, glare, and afterimages, or permanent disability.

When used responsibly, Class 1 or 2 laser pointers are safe and exposures to personnel or the general public is generally negligible. Unfortunately this is not always the case. Reports indicate that laser pointers have been aimed into airspace and typically directed at airplanes or at ground transportation vehicles which create unsafe driving conditions for occupants of the vehicle as well as members of the general public. Class 3 or 4

laser pointers are dangerous and are not intended for instructional use by untrained personnel or in uncontrolled environments. Responsible users ensure that safe conditions and practices are maintained and inadvertent exposures to laser radiation are avoided.

All Class 3B or 4 lasers are required to be registered with EHS and subsequently with the Department of Public Health Radiation Control Program. Please contact TEHS at x6-3450 for further instruction or assistance regarding laser safety related concerns or questions.

Tufts Furniture Fire Code Standards By Wayne Springer

In 2006 a collaborative effort was established to create a university Furniture Fire Code Standard that would comply with the *Massachusetts Fire Prevention Regulations, 527 CMR 29:00, Upholstered Furniture, Molded Seating and Re-upholstered Furniture*. Tufts Finance and Purchasing and the Tufts Chief Fire Marshal along with several other key university contributors developed the Furniture Fire Code Standard. Seating products subject to the standards include upholstered chairs, benches, couches, futons, banquettes, mattresses and solid plastic chairs.

The standards are the **California Bureau of Home Furnishings, Technical Bulletin 133 (1991); Flammability Test Procedures for New Seating Furniture for Use in Public Occupancies, CAL 133 and California Bureau of Home Furnishings Flammability Test for Mattresses, CAL 129 (1992)**. Any furniture used inside any University building must comply with the **California Technical Bulletin 133** and the **CAL TB 133** tag must be affixed to the item. In addition to new

furniture, any used or donated furnishings that are intended to be used inside any University building must comply with the **CAL TB 133**.

- Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, 527 CMR, Section 21:00, Decorations, Curtains, Draperies and Blinds and Other Window Treatments;
- Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, 527 CMR, Section 29:00, Upholstered Furniture, Molded Seating and Re-upholstered Furniture;
- NFPA Standard 101, Life Safety Code, Chapter 10, Interior Finish, Contents and Furnishings;
- NFPA Standard 701, Fire tests for Flame Propagation of textiles and Films;
- Boston Fire Department, Regulation of Upholstered Furniture;
- Boston Fire Department, Application for Installation of Upholstered Seating;

- Boston Fire Department, Decorations, Furnishings and Interior Finishes.

If a student intends to furnish his/her student room or University suite with any of the above mentioned articles, please ensure that they are **CAL TB 133** compliant. Any furniture that is found by the fire inspector to be non-compliant will be posted with a *Fire Safety Notice of Non-Compliance*. The owner will have 48 hours to remove the article. The owner also will be informed by email of the non-compliant furniture and what assistance may be available to comply with the standard.

The university P-Card may not be used to purchase furniture. All furniture is restricted for purchase, unless ordered through the university's Strategic Furniture Partners (link below). The main reason for this is that our partners are aware of the university's Furniture Fire Code Standard. To our knowledge, furniture sold at most major furniture retailers is not CAL 133 compliant.

The Furniture Fire Code Standard is intended to maintain a safe environment for our faculty, staff and students to work, study and socialize. Please help us in this endeavor by complying with the Fire Code policy in the interests of life safety.

http://finhost.finance.tufts.edu/purchasing_th/furniture.htm



*furniture sold
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retailers is not
CAL 133*