



# SRS ROAD TO SAFETY

SPRING 2009

SRS.UNM.EDU

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### Safety Saves Money

Insurance fees are on the rise nationally, and workers' compensation costs are just the beginning. Some companies have found that for every \$1 spent wisely on safety, they realize a return of \$3. Where else can you achieve a better ROI?

### SRS IS FOR SAFETY...AND MANY OTHER THINGS

UNM's Department of Safety and Risk Services (SRS) is here to help. What does that mean to you? SRS includes many services such as safety, risk, recycling, chemical and environmental safety, as well as fire safety and many, many types of training. It will almost make your head spin! And all of the services that SRS offers are here to make UNM a great place to work or go to school.

This year, SRS is looking for new and innovative ways to let UNM staff, faculty and students know about how SRS can help. Many of you already know us by the defensive driving classes that we offer. But did you know that we offer training on ergonomics? Or that we can help supervisors learn more about Workers' Compensation? We also offer classes on the proper use of a fire extinguishers, as well as training on the proper use and disposal of chemicals and other hazardous materials.

Just give us a call at 277-2753 or visit our web-site at [srs.unm.edu](http://srs.unm.edu) to see what we have to offer, and how we can be of service to you.

### THE ROAD TO SAFETY

Safety is a learning process, and UNM is committed to providing a safe environment for all students, staff, faculty and visitors. What does that mean to you? Safety means better health, well being, and a more effective and productive environment. In order to create a safer environment, extra measures need to be taken. This may mean taking extra care when lifting, checking to make sure your area is clear of slip, trip and fall hazards, and letting SRS or your Building Coordinator know if you see a potential hazard.

Safety and Risk Services (SRS) is working to reduce accidents, by recognizing individuals at UNM who are taking measures to prevent accidents before they happen. The Road to Safety is SRS's vision of reducing accidents by providing safety training, ongoing communication, safety suggestions and Prizes. During the next few months, SRS staff will be handing out

"You were Caught Being Safe" cards when they see safety in action, and thanking people at UNM who are contributing to safety. Individuals who receive the cards are encouraged to register on-line for weekly drawings at [srs.unm.edu](http://srs.unm.edu). The contest is also open to any UNM staff or faculty member who has contributed to safety. Each name will be entered into a drawing for weekly prizes. Winners will receive an SRS tote bag and SRS notepad, along with lobo gear, t-shirts, mugs and items for your office or car. Make sure to leave a phone number so you can be reached if you win! For more information, contact SRS at 277-9790, or visit [srs.unm.edu](http://srs.unm.edu) to register on-line.



## WHY IS MY BUILDING INSPECTED?

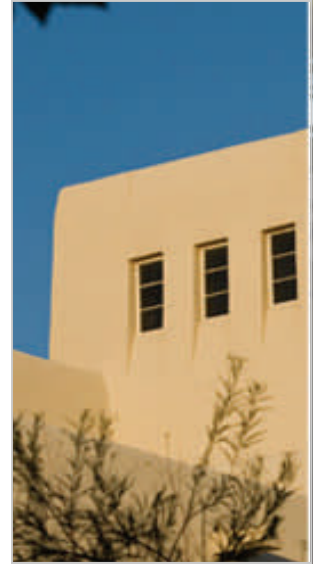
Building Inspections are an important part of the safety process at SRS.

Since there are so many types of buildings at UNM (some of which are quite antique), there are many issues that may arise. Fire and broken pipes cause the most amount of damage to buildings. Since the Zimmerman Library fire and flood, there has been an added urgency to make sure that all buildings at UNM are safe from these types of hazards.

It is important that the campus is safe for all individuals who use it. This means employees, faculty and students need to be kept safe. The building inspections are designed to keep building occupants safe from harm such as fire, slips and falls, or falling objects.

Although it may seem that these inspections are excessive, they are important because a lot can change over a period of time. Plus, with different seasons, there may be different issues that arise during the year.

SRS appreciates the efforts of the Building Coordinators' and their efforts. Any ideas or suggestions in streamlining this process will be greatly appreciated.



## TRAVEL INSURANCE



Don't assume you will be covered under your current medical plan when you travel abroad. UNM offers TravMed International Insurance as peace-of-mind for employees who travel outside the United States. For as little as \$4.00 a day, TravMed International Insurance will cover your medical, dental, accident & sickness, or medical evacuation expenses. They also offer excellent 24 hour customer service assistance, and will provide information on the nearest and most appropriate care.

For more information, contact TravMed at 800-732-5309. You can also contact Safety and Risk Services at 277-9790 or visit [srs.unm.edu](http://srs.unm.edu) for information and to download forms.

## CHEMICAL INVENTORY DATABASE—ICID

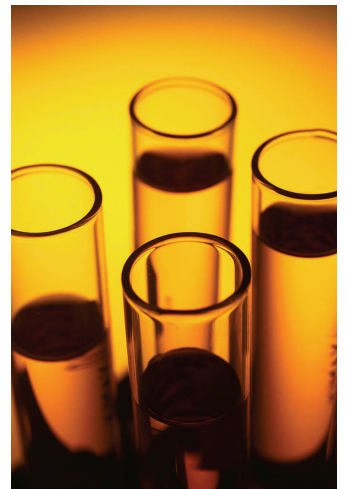
SRS has created a new way of keeping an inventory of chemicals at UNM. The software is called ICID (Interactive Chemical Inventory Database). As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, all departments who order chemicals at UNM began to use ICID.

This software program was developed for many reasons. For one, it makes it easier for the various departments to keep track of what they have on hand, and decide when it's time to reorder. It also saves money on overstock and allows inventory to be more up-to-date. ICID also allows UNM to show various regulatory agencies what chemicals are being used on campus

and where they are stored. This saves the University money, since fines may be assessed if an accurate inventory is not being kept.

This software is getting rave reviews from skeptics who thought entering all chemicals on a database would be a cumbersome chore. The software is easy to use, and training classes are available.

"ICID is a step in the right direction toward achieving our goal of campus safety", said Donna Smith, SRS Director. "It is a real-time tool to keep inventory and minimize disruption of your work."



## FITNESS & HEALTH—BIKING

The benefits of biking are tremendous. The use of bikes as an alternative to driving is very important for sustainability at UNM. Biking is non-polluting, inexpensive, and extremely convenient on campus. Also, the health benefits of biking makes it very appealing to many people. Biking to school or work allows you to combine commuting with exercise, giving you more time to do other things. And what other form of transportation allows you to park right in front of your building!

Biking helps alleviate parking issues, and as parking becomes more and more scarce on campus, biking is a great alternative. It doesn't cost anything to park a bike on campus, but parking your vehicle can be rather expensive, not to

mention the expense of gas, wear and tear, and insurance.

If you have a long commute, you can put your bike on the bus or train, or bike for a distance and then take the bus or train. Since bus passes are free to UNM students, staff and faculty, this is another wise and economical choice. Biking qualifies you to be a member of the Guaranteed Ride Home Program offered by the City of Albuquerque. You can get a free ride home from work or school, up to 5 times per year in case of an emergency.

Register on-line at [www.cabq.gov/transit/services/guaranteed-ride-home](http://www.cabq.gov/transit/services/guaranteed-ride-home). Free bike maps are also available. You can download a PDF version at [www.cabq.gov/bike](http://www.cabq.gov/bike) or call 311.



## HAZARDS OF RECYCLING

UNM is environmentally conscious and proud of the achievements made in the area of recycling. Recycling is part of Safety and Risk Services, and they have taken extra measures to be safe at all times.

To prevent unsafe conditions, recycling crews are thoroughly trained to use correct personal protective equipment, how to properly use their equipment and even do warm-up exercises. They are trained to always be alert and use proper safety techniques.



Recycling bins in hallways can be a fire hazard. With new HIPPA laws, there is a lot more shredded paper that is left out in hallways or not put in proper bags. Stacked cardboard and overflowing paper can also be a fire hazard. Recycling techs are trained on the importance of neatness, not to leave items laying out where people can trip or slip and to do inspections of areas for safety.

Taking these extra measures ensures a safe, healthy and happy staff.

## CHEMICAL WASTE

Over the past 90 days, the SRS Team has been collecting large quantities of chemical waste as part of our quarterly hazardous waste collection and disposal efforts. During the week of March 23-27, the Team assisted the UNM waste disposal contractor, Clean Harbors, Inc., in removing all these materials from campus for safe disposal. Ms. Patricia Theuer, Hazardous Waste Specialist said, "This shipment was one of the largest single shipments of chemical waste from the campus during my 21 years at UNM, over 100 barrels of waste!"

SRS thanks all those that cleaned out unused, unwanted and aged materials. Incrementally you have made for a safer environment in which to learn, teach and perform research.



## SRS EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

**Ralph Becker**  
Radiation Safety  
25 years

**Patricia Theuer**  
Chemical Hygiene  
20 years

## SRS FEATURED TRAINING

**Chemical Safety Officer**  
April 21st, May 12th,  
May 27th and June 4th, 2009

**Cryogenic Liquids**  
May 14th, 2009

**Shipping Hazardous Materials**  
May 6th, 2009

**Defensive Driving**  
May 7th & 8th, May 21st & 22nd. 2009

For More info, go to Learning Central Pre-registration is required for all courses



UNM

SAFETY & RISK SERVICES

Contact Information:

Onate Office—Insurance & Risk

277-9790

277-9799 fax

Tucker Office—Safety Services

277-2753

277-9006 fax

**We are on the web!**

**[srs.unm.edu](http://srs.unm.edu)**

Group Accident and Volunteer Insurance forms are now available on our website at [srs.unm.edu](http://srs.unm.edu)

**SRS Mission Statement**

Our mission is to collaboratively integrate safety, health, environmental and risk management principles and practices throughout the University of New Mexico. The Department of Safety and Risk Services (SRS) will promote this culture of safety by providing excellent customer service and support to the campus community.



**Any ideas for future newsletter topics or to subscribe to the newsletter mailing list please contact Serena Pearson at [spearson@unm.edu](mailto:spearson@unm.edu) or call 277-2855**