

HSE Newsletter

British Columbia Institute of Technology – Health, Safety and Environment

April 2024, ISSUE 0424

https://www.bcit.ca/safetyandsecurity/safety/ohs_newsletters.shtml

Hazard Bulletin – Battery Incidents (non-lithium ion)

For the full Hazard Bulletin refer [here](#) (Link to ShareSpace page)

There have been several examples of incidents where batteries have failed in the last few months, resulting in injuries or the potential for serious injury:

1. Small domestic battery was left in a flashlight for a prolonged period in storage; when removed, the battery was corroded, and the person handling got a burn/rash.
2. A large rechargeable battery was left in a charging station over a weekend. Due to a power outage, the battery lost all charge while in its station, and due to a combination of battery age and stress the battery failed, causing a strong odor and potential for battery to explode.
3. A vehicle system had two batteries, one that was regularly used and one that powered a component that was not used, nor maintained or replaced. The system had an unknown modification where when one battery was charged, power would be drawn to the other battery if needed. Due to age, the system caused the old battery to receive charge, where it failed and exploded.



Example of a swollen, failing battery.



Example of household battery corrosion.

Recommendations

With domestic batteries – remove them from any devices that will not be used for a long time.

- For larger re-chargeable batteries, make sure you track their age and condition, and have a plan to replace them within their lifespan (e.g. replace around 50-75% of lifespan).
- Battery charging when a battery is most likely to fail – make sure any charging set-ups have systems in place to prevent over charging, or batteries fully discharging in the event of a power failure; ensure your battery systems limit the amount of stress placed on the units.

BCIT First Aid: [BCIT FirstAid@bcit.ca](mailto:BCIT_FirstAid@bcit.ca)

BCIT OHS: ssemhse@bcit.ca

WHY THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER?

Health and Safety is a priority at BCIT. HSE newsletters contain first aid statistics, compliance concerns, and updates of new legislation and interest articles.



New AED's on the Burnaby Campus

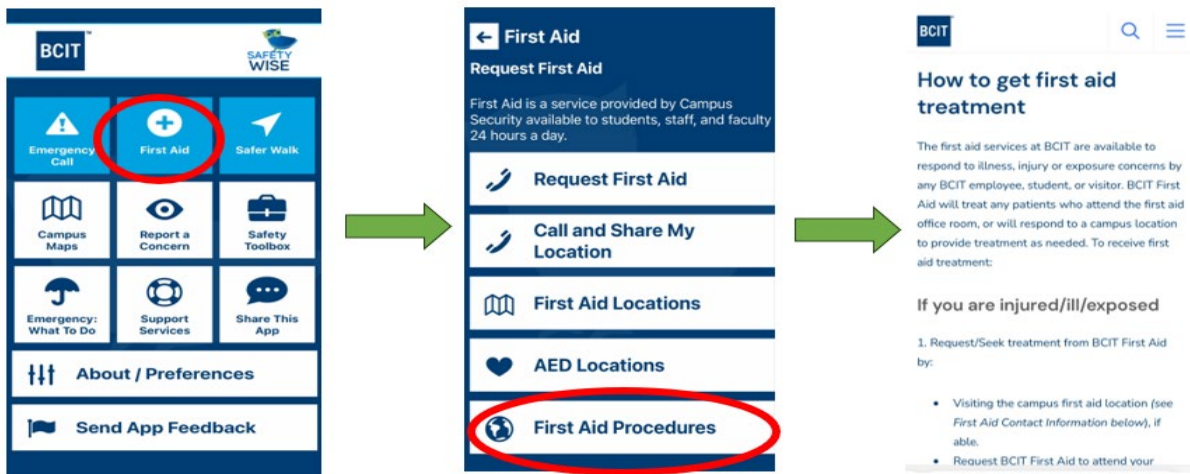
Eight new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been provided to the Burnaby Campus. Their locations have also been noted in the SafetyWise app under **AED Locations**.

The new locations are:

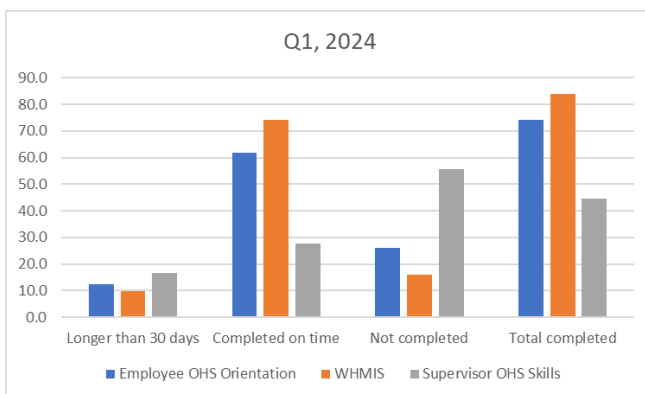
NE08, Floor 01	NE22, Floor 01-107	SW03, Floor 02	SW09, Floor 01
SE08, Floor 01-101G	Goard Way Receiving Stn	NE04, Floor 01-101	NW06

Safety Wise App

The Burnaby Campus JOHSC advocated for linking the first aid procedure to the SafetyWise app, and it is now available. Find the SafetyWise app on your phone, select **First Aid**, and then select **First Aid Procedure**, and the First Aid Procedure on the BCIT website will appear.



Education / Training Dashboard



First Aid Statistics

