HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Facilities and Operations (F&O) is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for students, employees, the public, and contractors. We all have a key part to play and a joint responsibility to health and safety. This is a priority for the University of Alberta, as outlined in Objective 19 of the Institutional Strategic Plan: For the Public Good.

In addition to simply being the right thing to do, F&O employees at all levels have legal obligations to protect themselves, coworkers, and people in the vicinity of where work is being conducted. Key elements to protect our workers include assessing and controlling hazards and following safe-work procedures.

Alberta’s new health and safety legislation, An Act to Protect the Health and Well-being of Working Albertans, came into effect on June 1, 2018. It contains significant changes including specific responsibilities for owners, employers, supervisors, and employees. It also defines the process for a worker’s right to refuse unsafe work. The University’s Environmental Health and Safety unit is developing training to ensure all University of Alberta personnel are aware of these changes.

The legalization of cannabis will also provide some challenges for managing use of marijuana in our workplaces. The University is working toward developing broad-based policies and related guidelines that recognize the uniqueness of our workplace. Also, we expect to see an overarching policy addressing “impairment”, which will encompass all potentially impairing substances. As a final note, your Senior Leadership Team has committed to developing a framework to improve the safety program within F&O. The model upon which this improved program is the Certificate of Recognition (CoR) with an aspiration to consider achieving a CoR safety designation. Until this process is complete, employees can refer to the F&O safety manual or contact F&O Safety directly.

All employees are expected to be active participants in the F&O safety program for themselves, their coworkers, and, indeed, all people with whom we come into contact. Ultimately, everyone is entitled to return home safely every day.

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University of Alberta

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