



# From The Ground Up

A PUBLICATION OF THE IPFW PHYSICAL PLANT

Winter 2004

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## Cold, Ice and Snow—All Possible Challenges for Grounds Department

By: Jayla M. Heller and Janet Kelly, Grounds Superintendent

The arrival of winter is ushered in by the winter solstice on the calendar, the obvious shorten day lengths, holidays and for some IPFW employees the knowledge that they will be on call 24/7. Grounds department employees are responsible for the campus snow removal on not only the main campus but also beginning this year at the Waterfield Campus student housing.



To put all this in perspective, there are approximately 4 miles of sidewalks, 3 miles of roadways and 33 acres of parking lots on the main campus grounds. All of these need to be as clear of ice and snow as possible by 7:00 am when faculty, staff and students arrive on campus. A semi-load of ice melt, (840 bags) and 80 tons of salt are on hand to be ready for any event.

The 13-member Grounds crew has numerous, tried and true, plans to accomplish this. Depending on the time of day the snow begins, the rate at which it is falling, the temperature, moisture content, wind speeds and possible accumulation, Ron Pequignot, Grounds Supervisor, and other staff choose the best approach and the machines hit the roads.

Part of the fall preparation for the winter snows consist of converting the mowers used on the turf to machines enclosed with cabs and outfitted with brushes to clear sidewalks. This is effective only with light accumulations of a dry snow. The heavy wet snow has to

be removed with a snowplow blade attached to small tractors to push the snow off the sidewalks. In some cases, these machines are also followed by the brushes to further clear the walkways. When the snow finally stops or if there is a possibility of the melting snow refreezing during the nighttime temperature, an ice-melting chemical is applied. All of this occurs in sequence over a period during the snowfall. The bottom line in all this is SAFETY for the campus community.

Simultaneously, the road crews have begun to clear and treat the roadways and parking lots. Large highway trucks with 12 ft. plows begin clearing the lots. One of the trucks has a salt spreader mounted in the truck bed. As the roads are cleared, a mixture of salt and sand is applied to the road surface and the driving lanes of the lots.

Small areas such as loading docks, parking garage entryways, and narrow sections of lots are cleared with pickup trucks with blades and bobcats with either blades or buckets.

The timing of the onset of the snow is all-important and totally sets the removal approach. The lots cannot be cleared until the cars are moved. Any snow cleared before then would windrow the snow behind a vehicle. A roadway cleared at 10:00pm for instance can be drifted shut by

7:00am. This is the reason that many snows call for the crew to come in at 2:00am to have the campus ready for the personnel arriving at 7:30-8:00 am.

There are ways that the campus community could help the Grounds Department more efficiently work during a snow as well as address the safety issues.

Remember, the trucks are big, heavy and cannot stop on a dime. Give them room to maneuver. During a snow, visibility in the trucks and other equipment can be obscured so watch for them. When arriving in the morning, park in the parking garages to allow the surface lots to be cleared.

Dress according to conditions- boots will help you get to your destination safely. If sidewalks appear to be slippery, walk in the grass along the sidewalk.



The goal of the entire Grounds crew during the winter is one that is summarized in the mission statement of the Physical Plant:

Pride in our work  
Quality in our service  
Commitment to our customer  
Professionalism in our attitude  
Safety in our approach

Let it snow!



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# Holiday Safety Tips

By: Lauren Denhartog, Chief of Police and Safety

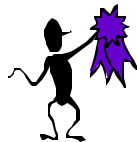


The hustle and bustle of the holiday season will soon be upon us. Do not let yourself become so wrapped up in holiday planning that you forget safety.

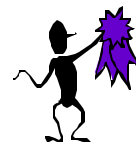
Here are some tips to help you get safely through the holiday season:

1. If you are going to drink, drink responsibly. Never drink and drive. Do not hesitate to call a cab if necessary.
2. If you are out with friends who are drinking, do not let them drive. Take their keys, and call them a cab.
3. As you decorate for the holidays, remember fire safety. Live trees and decorations are very flammable. If they are to be used on campus, they must be treated with a fire retardant. (call REM at 5744 for more details)
4. If you go shopping at lunch or prior to your work hours, make sure all of your purchases are out of sight in your vehicle. Preferably locked in your trunk.
5. Do not leave children unattended in a vehicle, even for a few minutes.
6. Do not leave your purses or wallets in a shopping cart or in your vehicle.
7. When returning to your vehicle walk in a group when possible, always have your car keys out and ready to use.
8. Do not leave your vehicle unattended and running. It may not be there when you return.
9. Be alert to your surroundings. Walk and park in well-lighted areas.

We normally see an increase in crime prior to the holiday season. These are just a few of the precautions you can take to aid in your safety. Use your common sense; do not take chances with your safety! Have a great holiday season! Do not let the Grinch steal your Happy Holidays! Have a great holiday season!



## Milestones



January, February, March, and April

### 20 Years

James D. Hall      Building Services  
January 2, 1985

### 5 Years

Cornelius Grant      Building Services,  
January 3, 2000

### 10 Years

Steve Burton      UPD  
March 3, 1995

Anthony Spade      Building Service  
January 31, 2000

Barry Markin      UPD  
February 28, 1995

Nathaniel Stephens      Building Services  
January 24, 2000

*Congratulations!*

# Hot Work is a Hot Topic!

By: Stephanie Flinn, Environmental Technician

What is "hot work?" Hot work can be defined as any work using an open flame or spark-producing apparatus. Hot work includes, but is not limited to, welding, cutting, burning, grinding, soldering, and any related heat-producing jobs that could ignite combustible materials or flammable atmospheres.

**"Hot work can be defined as any work using an open flame or spark-producing apparatus."**

While hot work is often necessary to achieve desired results, there are many safety issues that must be considered when doing this type of work.

Some of the safety issues associated with hot work operations include ignition of explosive atmospheres, contact burns, ultra-violet radiation burns, inhalation of dangerous fumes or gases, eye irritation, vision impairment, ignition of nearby flammable materials, and

electrical shock from equipment. IPFW recognizes that there is a potential for injury to people and damage to property that can result from fire or sparks that arise when hot work is performed outside of a designated hot work area. The IPFW Hot Work Permit Program establishes a permit authorization system to ensure that all hazards are evaluated and that appropriate safety measures and controls are taken prior to and during any operation that uses an open-flame or spark-producing apparatus.

There are many departments across the IPFW campus that have become part of the Hot Work Permit Program. Some departments are in this program because they do hot work as a weekly or sometimes daily job operation, like the Maintenance or Grounds departments. Other departments are in the program because they have technicians that occasionally do some type of hot work in their labs, such as the Chemis-

try department. And still other departments have students that do hot work as part of a class or project, as in some of the Engineering and Fine Arts classes. Any contractor doing work at IPFW must also adhere to the IPFW Hot Work Permit Program procedures.

No matter what type of hot work it is, or the duration or frequency at which it is done, there will always be safety issues associated with this type of work. This is why we would like to have all individuals doing this type of work at IPFW involved in the Hot Work Permit Program. The program is in place to help ensure the safety of the individual, and the University community. With a cooperative effort between REM and all individuals affected by this program, we can master the hot topic of hot work safety!

For more information on IPFW's Hot Work Permit Program, please contact Renee Eshcoff at 15744 or Stephanie Flinn at 14193.

## Happy Birthday! January, February, March, and April

### January

- 1 Rebekah Blaettner
- 2 Tim Ellsworth
- 3 Stephanie Flinn
- 7 Carolyn Itt
- 15 Jerry McCagg
- 15 Nathaniel Stephens
- 20 Calvin Lewis
- 26 Jim Henderson
- 28 Jennifer Weigmann, UPD
- 30 Gary Cooley
- 30 Greg Miller
- 30 Mary Waskiewicz

### February

- 3 Robert Habeger
- 4 Dale Winter
- 11 Lauren Denhartog, UPD
- 13 Thomas Todd
- 22 Bob Brooks
- 27 Lora Caldwell
- 27 Frank Mace

### April

- 8 Laurel Dailey, UPD
- 14 Richard Igney, UPD
- 18 Greg Clements
- 21 Bruce Burdick
- 21 David Fincher
- 29 Renee Eschoff

### March

- 1 Steve Newhard
- 2 Chris Klinker
- 3 Barry Markin, UPD
- 5 Sue Ealing, UPD
- 6 James Hall
- 13 Charles Showalter
- 18 Jeff Davis, UPD
- 21 John Parkison
- 28 Barry Wygant



# Welcome to Physical Plant New Employees!



**Lynn Armstrong**  
University Police  
Department

*Lynn is a life long resident of Allen County and is a retiree from the FWPD after 31 years of service. Lynn has served as a Volunteer Firefighter and Medic for 33 years with 3 different Allen County Fire Depts. He has a Bachelor's degree from Tri-State University. He and his wife, Sue, have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.*



**Tamara Dilan**  
University Police  
Department

*Tamara has 3 children - 2 daughters and a son. She enjoys watching movies, spending time with her children, and shopping.*



**Jack Fogle**  
Building Services

*Jack is single. He enjoys playing the guitar, and listening to music.*



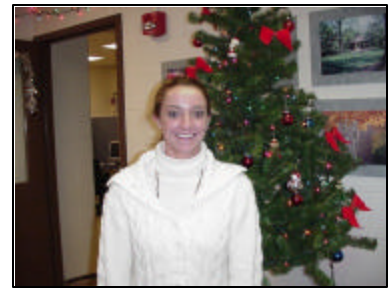
**Richard Grzych**  
Building Services

*He is single. Hobbies are collecting comedy albums and music. He plans to work towards a degree in secondary education.*



**Matthew Guck**  
Operations and  
Maintenance

*Matthew and his wife and have been married for 15 years, no children. He enjoys reading, video games, trap shooting, bike riding and fishing in his spare time.*



**Christina Hughes**  
University Police  
Department

*Christina is single, but has a significant other. She enjoys cleaning (believe it or not!), sewing, and interior decorating.*

# Welcome to Physical Plant New Employees!



**Chris Klinker**  
Building Services

*Chris is married to Nancy. Their daughter, Peyton, is 6 and starting school this fall. He enjoys bicycling, swimming, golf, reading and going to the movies.*



**Russell Scriver**  
Building Services

*Russell has been married to Betty for 28 years. They have 4 children and 6 grandchildren. He enjoys fishing in his spare time.*



**Bruce Young**  
Building Services

*Bruce has 3 wonderful children - 2 boys and a girl. He likes to watch basketball games and football games with his sons. He also enjoys fishing.*

## Building Codes/ Fire Safety- Health and Public Safety Snapshot

By: Greg Serafini, Architect

Everyday we are faced with making the right decisions regarding our program needs and the Health and Safety of our occupants. So, how do we begin? We begin by keeping our eyes and ears open to what is around us. Simple things like exits and path of travel for safe exiting of the building occupants. Are we aware of loose furnishings blocking exits, or temporarily placed in hallways, which might cause an unsafe Exit, in the event of an emergency? Are there two or more exits for a building space? These are exits per the codes occupancy load, not for convenience. Never plan on blocking any exit, anywhere.

Interior lobby spaces are sometime used for a special group-gathering event. Loose tables and chairs should be arranged around the perimeter, in a deliberate manner so they do not project into the CLEAR exit aisle or corridor width. If these objects are not placed away from the clear path of travel, an emergency situation is being

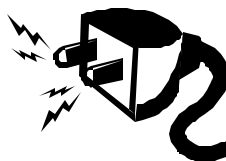
staged whereby people exiting can stumble and collectively block the exit.

Issues related to personal office temperature control should always be addressed to the Physical Plant Operations & Maintenance Department. No personal heaters are allowed in offices or areas on campus without the approval of Physical Plant. There are safety rules for these heaters that must be followed. Personal coffee pot warmers, without safety shut-off devices, are not permitted. Never overload an available power source. If you have doubts about the power load on an outlet, or on any electrical issue, please call the Physical Plant office and a member of the Operations & Maintenance staff will contact you to address your request or question.

Office clutter can be more than an eye sore. Not only is the accumulated quantity of paper and books spilling

onto the floors, but in some cases they begin to grow together forming walls of debris, which block the ability for emergency entry and exit. The National Fire Code and the Federal ADA Compliance mandate accessibility routes. Please review and modify such conditions to assure such personal space safety issues are restored. Lastly, storage of items upon shelves must be limited to 18" below the ceiling plane. This allows for proper coverage of the automatic fire suppression system.

Students and Staff have a responsibility to maintain and practice an inherent gift of common sense toward the use and miss-use of our facilities. We are all stewards of our campus community and it should continually be treated as an honor and a privilege, to protect. Stay safe out there.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Our Mission

*The Physical Plant Mission is to support the higher education process of the IPFW university community by providing an environment that is functional, safe, clean, and aesthetically pleasing.*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
WWW.PHYPLT.IPFW.EDU

# SEASON'S GREETINGS



1. Copy and paste this link to go to the following page:  
<http://www.hallmark.com>
2. Click on the "Free E-cards" link.
3. Click the link on the upper left hand side of the page that says "Pick up an e-card."
4. Enter the email address: hellerj@ipfw.edu and this retrieval number: EG5161301121549
5. Click "Display Greeting." Your e-card will be displayed.

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# FROM PHYSICAL PLANT!