Zombies, MAD SCIENTISTS &

Superheroes

An Approach to Promoting Safety Culture with Research Lab Personnel

University of Kentucky Department of Biological Safety

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Objectives

- Engage the research community, mainly at the staff level, in a positive interaction with Environmental Health & Safety Division.
- Promote a culture of safety in an informal, non-punitive setting.
- Provide an in-person training opportunity to supplement existing required online training program.



Methods

- Organized a Lab Safety Fair with all EH&S divisions participating.
- Included interactive learning activities, prizes, educational displays, food and fun.
- Provided prizes for participants who completed all learning activities to encourage engagement with EH&S staff.
- Utilized fun themes to capture attention and effectively market the activity.



EH&S Division Participation

- All departments within EH&S participated
 - Biological Safety 4 employees
 - Environmental Management 9 employees
 - Fire Marshal 4 employees
 - Occupational Health and Safety 6 employees
 - Radiation Safety 10 employees
 - Administration 4 employees
- This unified approach allowed participants to understand all the areas we cover and exactly who can help them with what



Interactive Learning Activities

- Providing interactive learning activities that reinforce basic safety principles is the real point of this type of activity.
- Interactive learning activities:
 - Are impactful for learners
 - Are memorable
 - Establish a positive relationship between EH&S staff and their clients



Biosafety









Radiation Safety









Environmental Management







Occupational Health & Safety







Fire Marshal









Posters





Welcome Desk





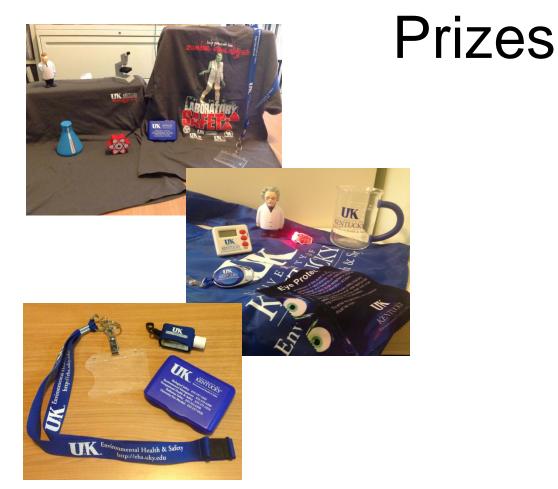




Prizes

- Small prizes are given at each department's interactive activity
- After completion of all activities participants receive t-shirts and food tickets
- Prizes attract participants and provide an incentive to fully participate in the interactive learning activities





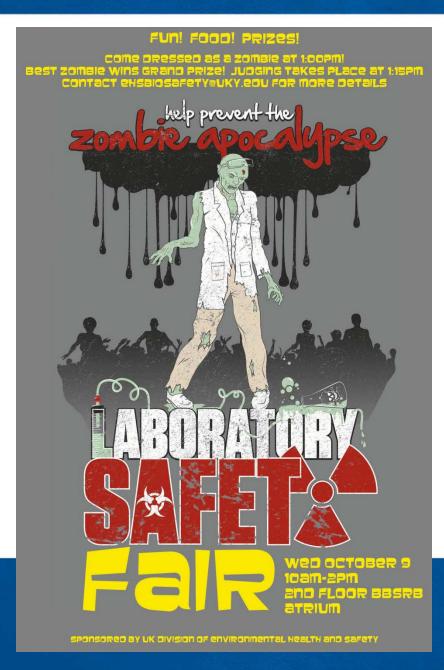




Themes

- Marketing is critical to the success of this type of event
 - Electronic means website, newsletters, list-servs
 - Handbills, posters and flyers on campus
 - "Save the Date" pens
- Fun themes capture the attention of the target audience and unify the message of the event
- Utilizing t-shirts that are themed in a way that make them a desirable item gives great safety publicity throughout the year





2013 Theme Help Prevent the Zombie Apocalypse







2014 Theme Lab Safety Nightmare









October 28

10 am to 2 pm

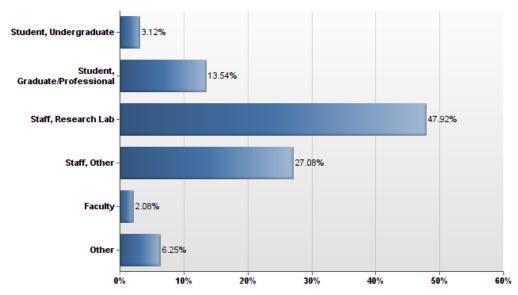
Mining & Minerals Research

Building

- 275 attendees completed all activities
- 35% completed after event survey
- Allow us to measure effectiveness of activities, target audience reached and achievement of division goals

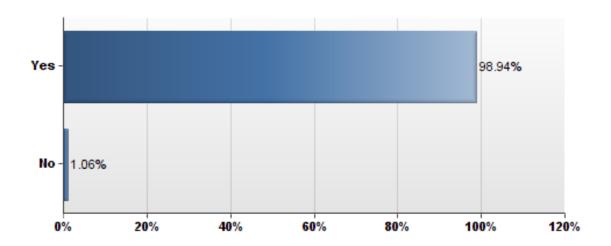


Which of the following choices best describes your current status at UK?



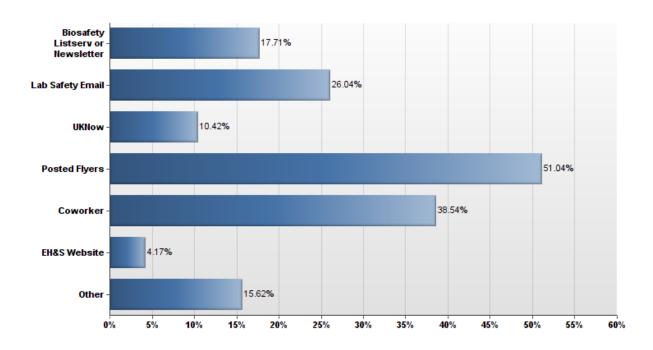


Do you feel you have a clearer understanding of the role of each department within the EH&S division?



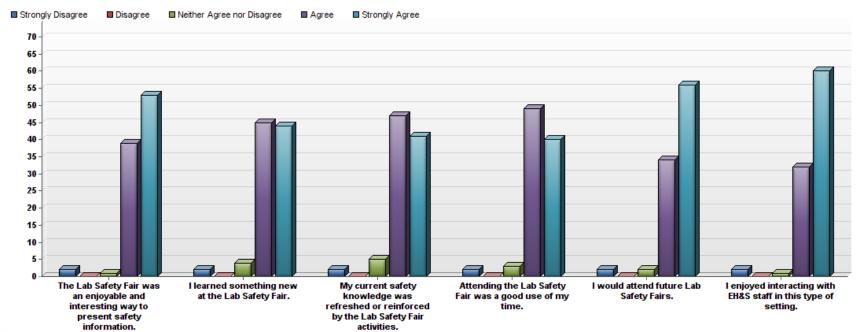


How did you find out about the Lab Safety Fair?



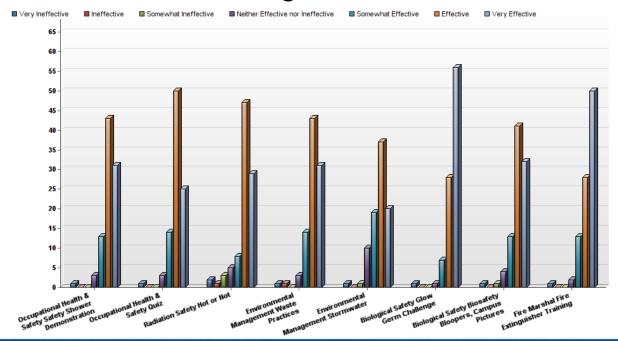


Please indicate your agreement with the following statements. Effectiveness for target audience.





Please rate the effectiveness of the interactive learning activities.





Results

- We have attracted large crowds and had an overwhelming representation from research lab staff, our target audience.
- Our after fair survey provided a great snapshot of our ability to achieve our goals.
- The community served by EH&S was very pleased to interact with EH&S staff in a more informal, fun environment.
- Research lab personnel that they greatly appreciated this activity.



Tips for Successful Results

- Support from division leadership and beyond is critical to procure funding, support and full EH&S staff participation for this type of event.
- Planning is critical. Our planning team begins meeting regularly approximately 6 months prior to the event.
- Creativity makes an event memorable.
- Funding makes it possible.
 - (No \$\$?, Add more creativity)



Conclusion

- Lab Safety Fair has been a great success and, with the support of upper administration, has become an annual activity with rotating locations to really capture the entire research lab community.
- This type of informal activity seems invaluable to providing a personal contact and positive impression for a community that requires a lot of EH&S support.



Outcomes

- We engaged the research lab community and refreshed their training on core EH&S topics.
- We provided a better understanding of the types of support and services that the different departments within EH&S can provide.



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