



2017 - 2018 AGM Report VIUFA - Workplace Health and Safety Rep

My work on your behalf as Workplace Health and Safety Representative for FPSE has included a number of interesting topics. Please take a moment to read the five points of information below.

1) **Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

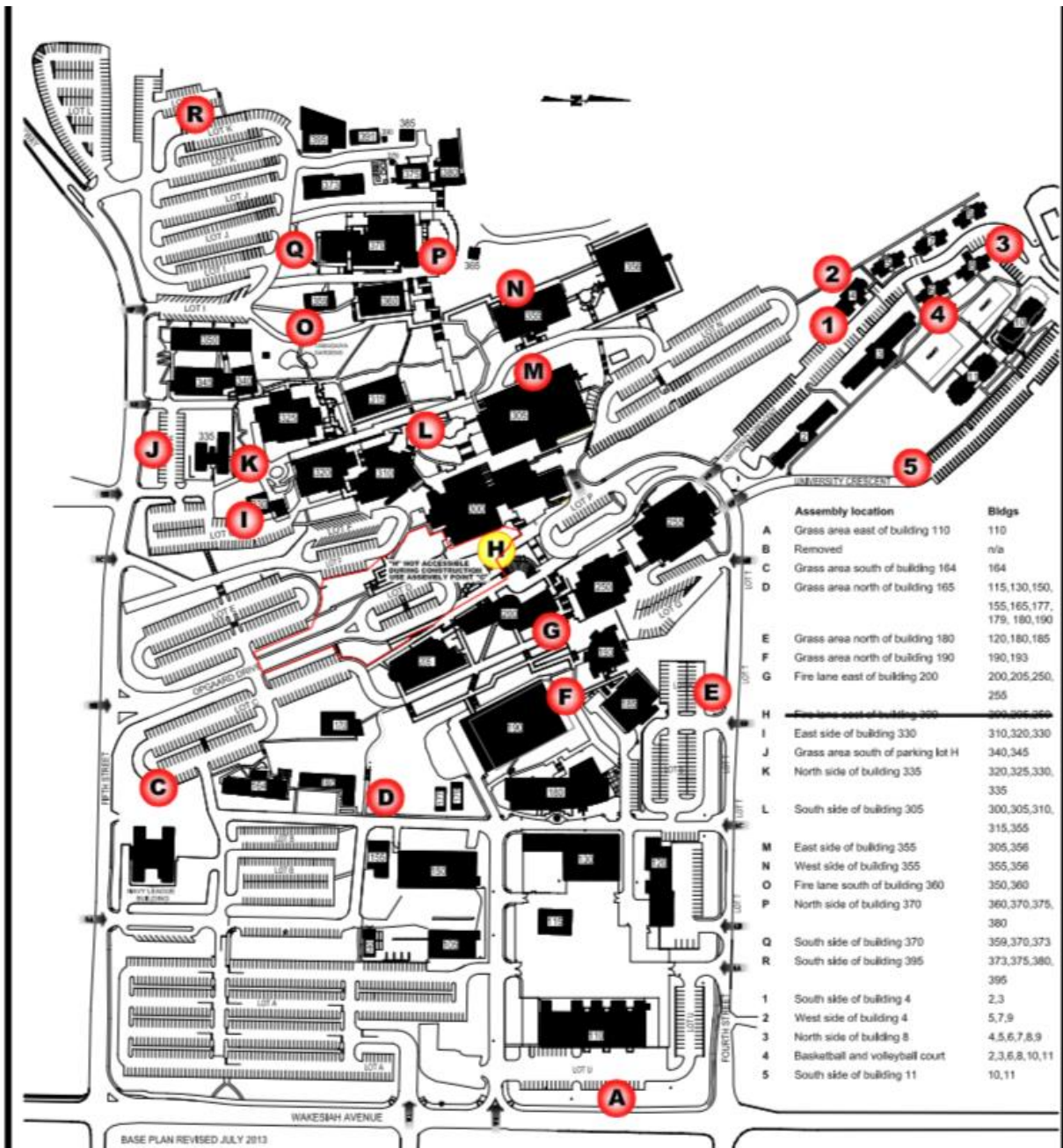
As the University continues to improve its Emergency Preparedness, there is one specific action I would like to encourage you to consider in support of this.

One of the most common points we hear in feedback about evacuation drills is, "I wasn't sure where to go?". This has been common across all areas, buildings, classes, students and faculty.

To help with this, I want to encourage you to **consult the map on the next page** and please consider including the location of the nearest Assembly Point **in your syllabi and in your first day orientation.**

You could include something like:

"The evacuation procedure for this classroom is to exit the door, turn _____ and proceed to the nearest exit. Our assembly point is Letter _____ located _____."



For more information check out the Health and Safety Website under “Emergency Info” and “Building Evacuations”.

<http://sites.viu.ca/healthandsafety/>

2) Reporting Harassment or Worrying Behaviour:

Harassment in the Workplace is top-of-mind recently, and knowing how to report harassment, be it from students, faculty, co-workers or supervisors is critical to ensuring a healthy workplace for all.

If you are experiencing an immediate issue of threatening or violent behaviour, call 6600 from an internal VIU phone for security or 911 for the police.

VIU has both policies surrounding, and procedures for dealing with, threats and violence in the workplace.

If you are dealing with issues of harassment, intimidation, or threats in the workplace please report it to your supervisor, your Health and Safety rep (me, or whoever is in my place) and/or to Health and Safety Services. Depending on the incident you could fill out an Incident Report as well.

We are all here to support you and H&S will work jointly with the Director of Human Rights and Respectful Workplace to support you and find a constructive resolution to the root issues.

3) Incidents this year.

The major incident for Health and Safety this year was first and foremost the accident that occurred in welding with a student who was burned badly during class. This led to some changes in procedures and training.

The other large incident was the recent and sudden closure of building 380 (Fish and Aqua). This occurred due to both the noise created by ongoing renovations disrupting class and those renovations uncovering significant mold in the building envelope and subsequent tests that found mold spore counts in an office and hallway. Thankfully, all classes and lab spaces in the building were able to be accommodated for the balance of the term in other spaces on campus. The renovations should be done soon and the building should be open, if it is not already, by the start of next term.

4) Quorum, Security and AV, and Classroom Tech Standards.

Finally, I'd like to mention a few things.

First, on the Audio Visual Security Committee (which reviews camera installations on campus), there has been a serious problem achieving quorum. I have been to two meetings in the past 6 months where I and only 2 other voting members were at the meeting. At the last meeting in March, it was just myself, the Health and Safety manager, and the support person. It is a committee of 8.

I am concerned that the Committee is unable to do its important and legislated work of approving and reviewing security camera installations if we do not have enough people represented. I am going to bring this up at the next meeting this spring if there are enough people. If not, I would have to bring it up with Administration to try to encourage people to come.

Finally, I have recently become part of the Classroom Standards Committee which has been formed to attempt to organize the process of ensuring the proper equipment is in classrooms and that requests for new equipment are prioritized, justified and standardized across the institution.

This committee, I believe, lacks adequate faculty representation, particularly people familiar with classroom delivery. On a large committee of 12, there is only myself from VIUFA and one member from BCGEU deciding how requests for technology use and upgrades in classrooms is prioritized.

I have been working with VIUFA President Chris Jaeger and the Chair of the Committee, Liesel Knaack, to ensure there is more representation. This will be an important committee in the future. You can expect to hear more from them as the process goes "public" sometime later this spring.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Alemany
Workplace Health and Safety Rep - FPSE