

### National Distracted Driving Month

April 2022

Drivers on cell phones see just a fraction of their driving environment.



April is National Distracted Driving Month, and there is still time to [Take the Pledge](#) and win a prize. I don't need to tell you that distracted driving is a dangerous behavior that contributes to accidents, injuries and death on our roadways. You see it yourself, almost daily: the swerving car; the car stopped at the traffic light after it turns green; the rear-end collision. Maybe, it's happened to you while adjusting the radio or reaching for something in the car? Drivers should be aware of three major types of distraction: visual (eyes), manual (hands) and cognitive (mind). When your eyes, hands and mind are

not focused on driving, you increase the chance that you will make mistakes that can result in an accident. Drivers should also realize that hands-free is not risk-free. Hands-free devices and voice command systems create a cognitive distraction as the driver mentally engages with interactive tasks. Some people claim that they are good at multi-tasking in the office or when at home. This may be true when one thing or the other does not require full attention. However, when driving in a car your full attention is needed all of the time, including watching out for the other guy who is not paying attention.

Please, [Take the Pledge](#) and just drive!

Gary Kaczmarczyk, Assistant Vice President, EH&S

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### Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-Ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. As of April 1, 2022, there have been 357 aviation related incidents involving Lithium batteries carried as cargo or baggage recorded since January 23, 2006. According to a 2018 report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 25,000 overheating or fire incidents have been reported over a five-year period. Here are a just a few accounts.

- A passenger's portable power bank overheated while inflight.
- A passenger's laptop went into thermal runaway inflight.
- An e-cigarette within a passenger's carry-on bag went into thermal runaway.
- A cell phone battery overheated and released smoke into the cabin while in flight.

Incidents like these can also happen at work, in your car, or in your home,. Please view the [Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Guide](#) for more information.

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## Safety Spotlight – Kathy Terwilliger, CIH



Kathy Terwilliger, EH&S Healthcare Safety Manager retired on March 31, 2022 after 29 years at Stony Brook. Kathy's undergraduate and graduate education in public, occupational and environmental health set the stage for her 39-year career that was committed to protecting the health and safety of people and the environment. Kathy had additional training in healthcare safety, asbestos management, and emergency operations, and she used her skills as a Certified Industrial Hygienist to investigate, examine, and analyze risks in the workplace. Kathy was great to work with. She is kind, funny, positive and has an eye for detail. Her work ethic and dedication to reducing staff injuries and improving the Stony Brook Medicine Sustainability footprint was unwavering. Kathy was joined by her husband Richard, daughter-in-law Kimberly, former colleagues, co-workers and friends at her retirement gathering where she received the Hospital's 'Queen of Green' award. This award recognizes individuals make substantial contributions to the Hospital Sustainability program. Kathy is looking forward to travel, crafting, family activities, and playing with Doris the cat. We wish Kathy good health, safe travels and happiness in her retirement. Wunderbar!!

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## Meet the EH&S Staff

Andrew Purcell, EH&S Hazardous Waste Specialist, joined EH&S in December 2021. Andrew is responsible for the daily operation and management of the [Hazardous Waste Program](#) which includes the collection, transportation, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes, regulated medical wastes, sharps, and universal wastes generated by research laboratories and other areas. Andrew assures safety and compliance with Federal and State regulations by conducting inspections, providing training to waste generators, and coordinating the removal of waste with various waste service providers. Andrew has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from Binghamton University. He gained experience in EH&S as an intern at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and working for an environmental and waste management firm. Andrew has an office in Suffolk Hall and can be reached at 2-3068.



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Environmental Health & Safety – Division of Enterprise Risk Management  
Stony Brook University, 110 Suffolk Hall Stony Brook, NY 11794-6200

View: <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/> Email: [ehsafety@stonybrook.edu](mailto:ehsafety@stonybrook.edu) Call: 631-632-6410