Hoverboards

Over the holiday season, hoverboards were a popular gift. These devices are currently under scrutiny due to incidents in which they have caught fire while charging or while in use. These devices cost about $200 dollars and are powered by rechargeable lithium-ion batteries. This type of battery is known to cause fire-related problems in laptops, cell phones and electrical systems in airplanes. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is investigating over 40 reported hoverboard fires which have also been reported in 19 states. In the reported cases, observers describe that a “pop” or “bang” noise accompanies the start of the fire. Some of these incidents have destroyed homes, and all have put people and property at risk. As a result of the number of reported incidents, Texas State has banned these devices on university property. This information should be passed on to parents in lieu of these potential fire hazards. Also, for more up-to-date information, go to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) website www.cpsc.gov

10 Ways to Prevent Occupational Eye Injuries

March is national workplace eye wellness month. According to Prevent Blindness America, nearly one million Americans have already lost some degree of sight due to an eye injury. It is estimated that more than 700,000 work-related eye injuries happen each year. Here are ten ways to prevent eye injuries in the workplace:

- **Assess**—look carefully at university operations. Inspect work areas, access routes and equipment. Study eye accident and injury reports. Identify operations and areas that present eye hazards.
- **Test**—Uncorrected vision problems can cause accidents. Use vision testing in your employee pre-placement and routine physical examinations.
- **Protect**—Select protective eyewear designed for a specific duty or hazard.
- **Participate**—For maximum protection against eye injuries, establish a 100% mandatory program that requires eye protection in all operational areas.
- **Fit**—Workers cannot be expected to use their protective eyewear unless it fits well and is comfortable.
- **Plan for an emergency**—Establish first-aid procedures for eye injuries. Make eyewash stations accessible, especially where chemicals are used.
- **Educate**—Conduct ongoing educational programs to establish, maintain and reinforce the need for protective eyewear.
- **Support**—Management support is key to having a successful eye safety program.
- **Review**—Continually review and, when needed, revise your accident prevention policies.
- **Put it in writing**—When all parts of your safety program have been created put them in writing.

River Clean up

The 31st Annual Great Texas River Clean Up is looking for volunteers! Join us on March 5th at 9 am and help beautify San Marcos. Sign up online at [http://goo.gl/AjMMZg](http://goo.gl/AjMMZg) and pick the watershed location you’d like to clean. Each volunteer will receive a t-shirt and free lunch after the event. Hope to see you there!

Want more info and updates? Like the Annual Great Texas River Clean Up Facebook page.