TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

2022 Annual Report

for the

Department of Environmental Health and Safety

From the Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health & Safety

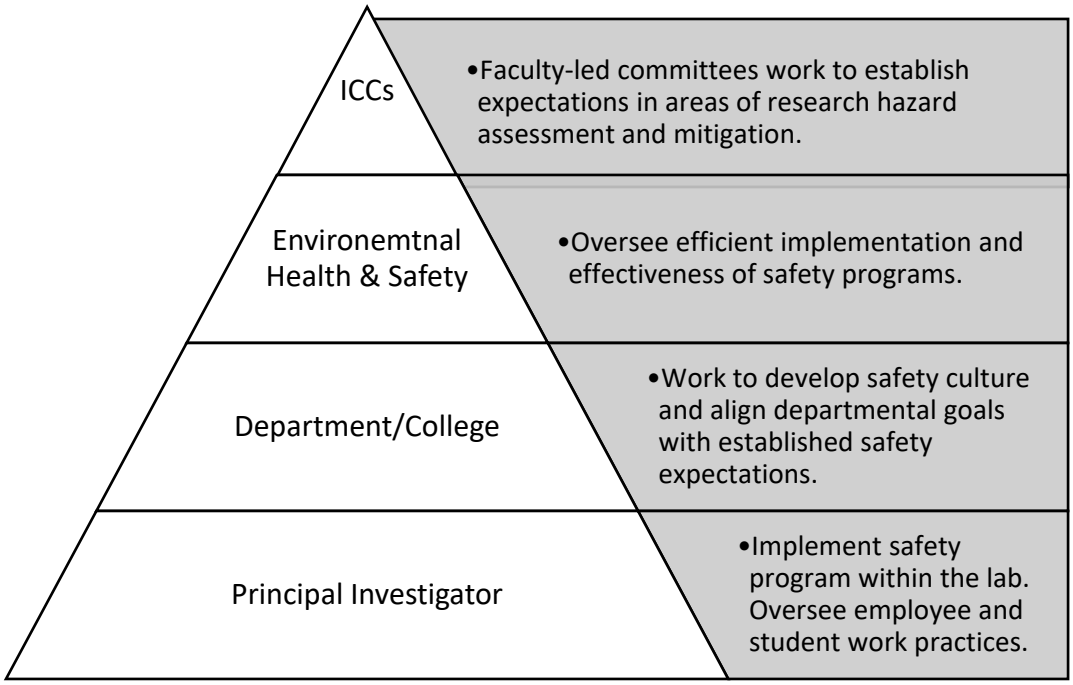
I am happy to present the Annual Report for the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) for the 2022 academic year. This report highlights some of the accomplishments of the department. After having reestablished University operations, the department focused on reconnecting normal operations with safety to resume safe work practices and retrain the newer employees.

For the 2022 academic year, we continued to support the university in lab cleanouts as faculty turnover continued. Additionally, we continued to support the second successful and safe semester of the new School of Veterinary Medicine. We were excited to announce the Department of Chemical Engineering as the third department to win the 2021 Presidential Departmental Excellence in Safety Award. And finally, through the support of the Operations Division, we established an embedded occupational safety and health position to assist in developing occupational safety within their operations. With the success of the 2022 year, we look forward to continuing to grow to support the expanding university research and scholarship mission in 2023.

Matt Roe, Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health & Safety

Academic Safety

The Academic Safety section encompasses multiple programs, including Biological Safety, Radiation and Laser Safety, Chemical Hygiene, and Physical Hazards, focusing on reducing injury from academic activities. The Academic Safety program is implemented collaboratively, with EHS as a knowledgeable partner and leader in developing these programs.



Academic safety program framework.

Highlights:

Raider Risk Assessment Management Program (RRAMP)

Beginning in December 2019, EHS introduced the campus community to an online safety management system (RRAMP) that allows users to review their chemical inventories, view and respond to annual safety assessments, view personnel training status, and perform an online risk assessment resulting in an automated work area safety plan. In 2022 EHS expanded the online Work Area Safety Plan management rollout within this system.

Safety Surveys

EHS was able to resume research space safety surveys, conduct inspections of all research spaces, and certify all fume hoods and safety showers. Additionally, we established a multimedia inspection regimen with all academic areas inspecting during the annual announced inspections simultaneously. This was done to reduce the burden on lab groups and more efficiently manage safety.

Biological Safety

In August of 2022, the University's Biological Safety Officer Rebecca Maloney completed her certification as a Certified Biological Safety Professional recognized by the American Biological Safety Association. Additionally, the university began construction and program development on the second biological safety level 3 laboratory space within the new Academic Sciences Building with an expected completion date of April 2024.

Radiation Safety

During FY 2022, the Radiation Safety section completed the first regulatory inspection of the Texas Department of State Health Services X-ray license for the School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo.

Occupational Safety

The Occupational Safety section works to create and manage programs designed "...to assure so far as possible every working man and woman... safe and healthful working conditions..." (Occupational Safety and Health Act 1970). These programs are focused on the proactive control of hazards within the work environment through elimination or communication and management.

Highlights:

Operations Occupational Health and Safety

In an effort to take a more active role in staff health and safety within the Operations Division, EHS worked with division management to hire an embedded safety position within this unit that reports to EHS but works within Operations on a day-to-day basis. This model has worked well at other universities and has shown promise in developing consistency in policies and procedures across university units.

Environmental Protection

The Environmental Protection section focuses primarily on compliance with federal and state environmental regulations. In addition to ensuring TTU adheres to compliance requirements, Environmental Protection provides several services to the campus, including:

- Chemical management,
- Hazardous chemical and infectious waste disposal,
- Surplus chemical redistribution,
- Universal Waste and electronic equipment recycling,
- Pollution prevention and waste minimization, and
- Training and education related to waste.

Air compliance responsibilities include permitting, testing, and reporting air pollution sources associated with the Texas Tech University Federal Operating Permit and reporting the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions from the campus annually. Water compliance activities include the inspection, permitting, and reporting associated with stormwater runoff, fuel storage tanks, and sanitary sewer discharges. These services protect not only individuals on campus but also the Lubbock community.

Highlights:

Assisted in sustainably recycling more than 33 tons of university waste materials and appropriately disposing of more than 28 tons of hazardous waste while reducing costs by 32% from FY 2021. During FY 2022, Texas Tech University maintained a "satisfactory" environmental record during all regulatory inspections.

Outreach and Training

The Outreach and Training section directs programs at community engagement in safety and the development and distribution of practical safety training and other informational materials in support of safety programs of the department. This section seeks to educate the university community about our safety programs and engage faculty, staff, and students in learning opportunities and initiatives to help develop a continuously improving safety culture.

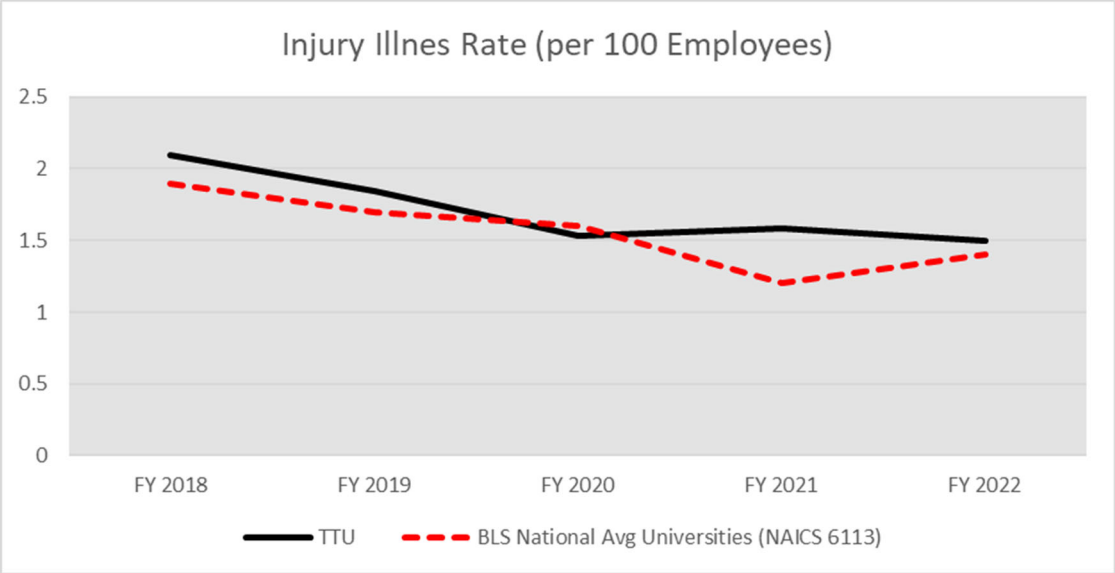
Highlights:

President's Departmental Excellence in Safety Award

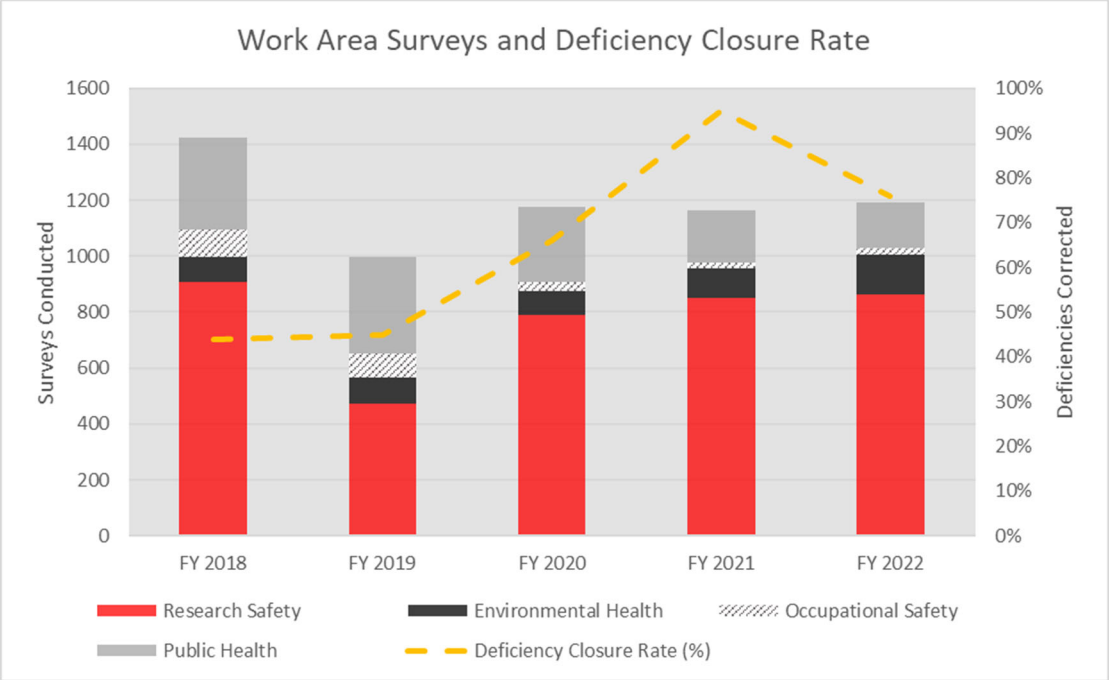
The third annual Presidential Departmental Excellence in Safety Award was awarded in FY 2022 to the Department of Chemical Engineering. This represents the departmental achievements in safety programs through a competitive review and award process. Many qualified applicant departments were showing remarkable strides in department-led safety initiatives.

Department Metrics

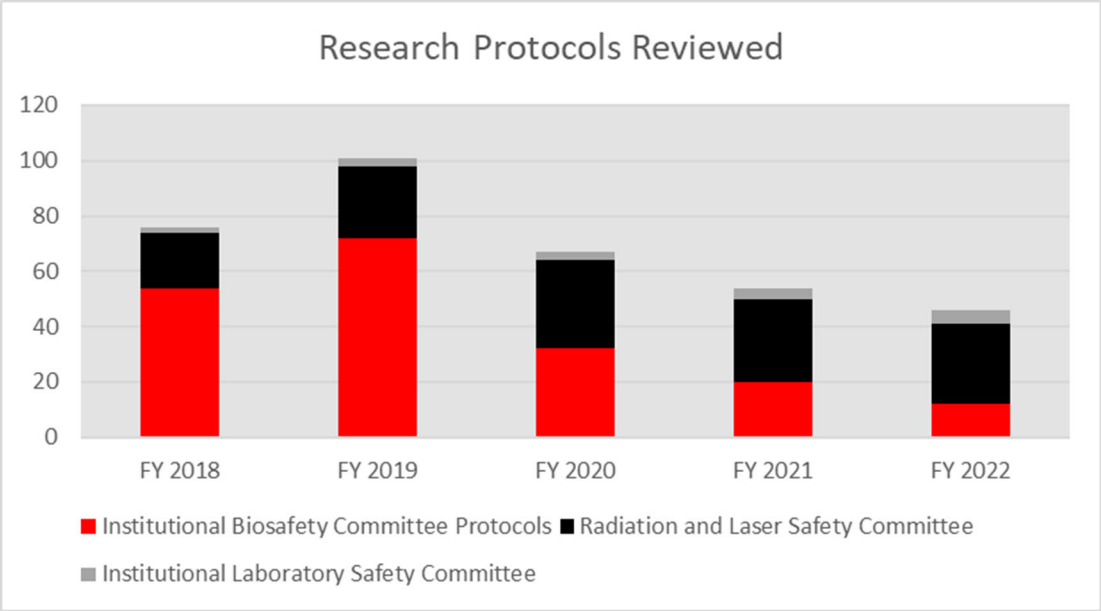
Risk Management:



Injury/Illness rate per 100 employees compared to the National Average of Universities from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

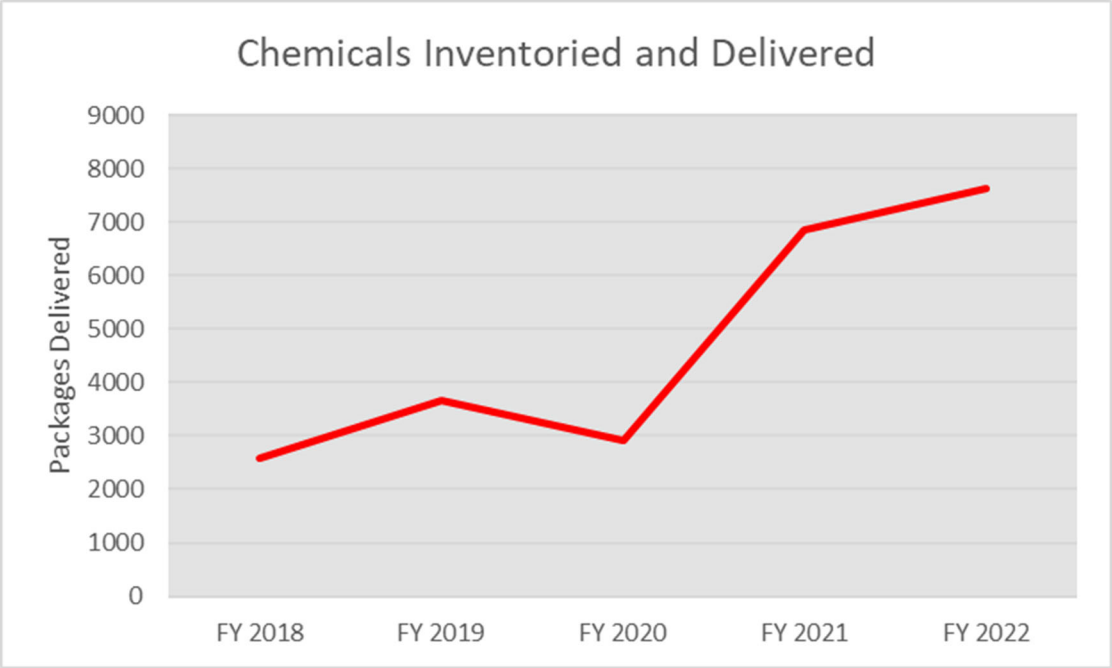


Work area surveys conducted and deficiency closure rate.

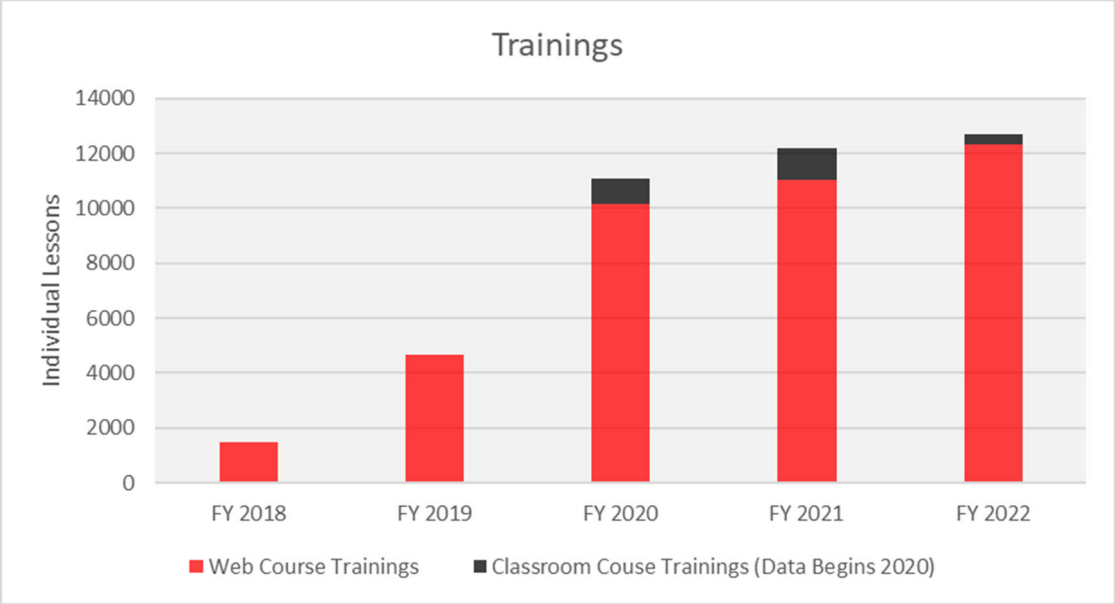


Institutional compliance committee research protocols reviewed.

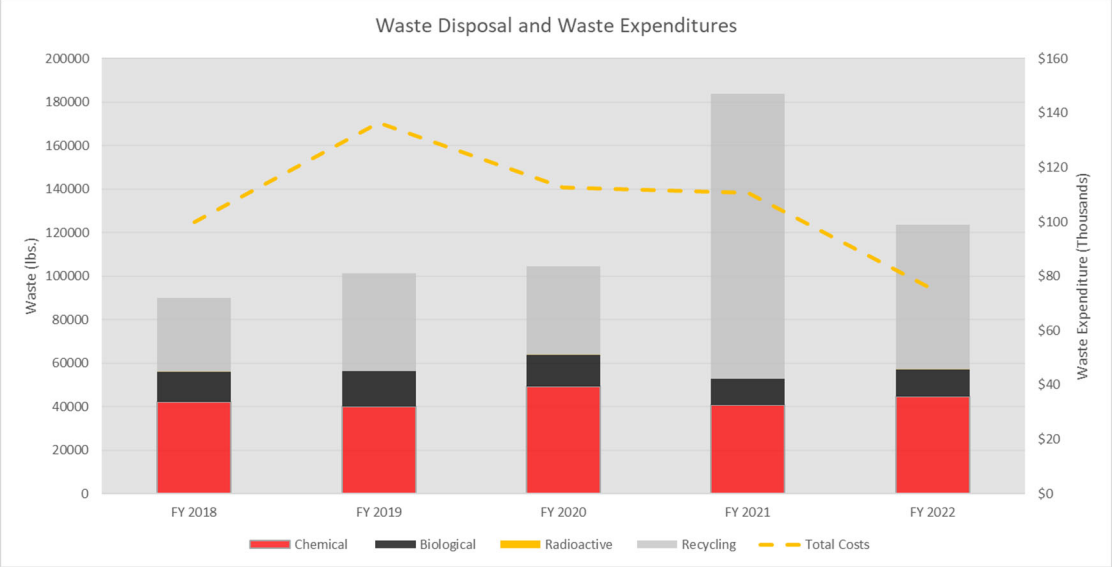
Services:



Chemicals received and entered into the online chemical inventory and delivered to academic work areas by EHS personnel. EHS Academic Safety maintains online chemical inventories for all academic work areas on campus.

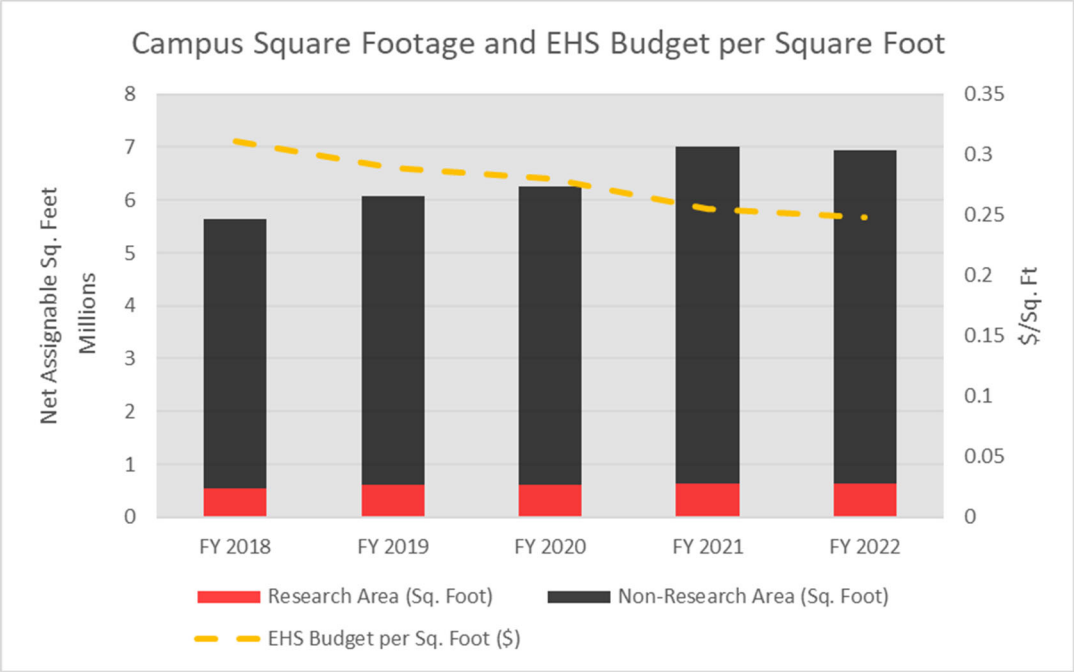


Individual training session enrollments over FY 2018-2020. FY 2020 began tracking in-person class attendance.



Waste disposal and waste expenditures.

Finances:



Campus square footage and EHS budget per square foot. This represents a decrease in budgeted dollars per square foot while realizing an increase in square foot responsibilities.