

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL (OHS&E) POLICY

It is the policy of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, insofar as is reasonably practicable; to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act No 85 of 1993 (and its regulations) as well as allied OHS&E related legislation, standards, and requirements to which the University subscribes. The University is committed to providing and maintaining, as far as is reasonably practical, a healthy, safe and risk-free working and learning environment and will endeavour to achieve this by:

- Providing adequate resources to facilitate the fulfilment of the Wits OHS&E policy;
- Implementing, establishing and maintaining OHS&E systems and structures, including OHS&E committees;
- Assigning responsibility through formal legal OHS&E appointments;
- Conducting risk assessments and OHS&E audits / inspections to identify, minimise / mitigate and manage risks;
- Providing and / or arranging OHS&E training and instruction to OHS&E legal appointees as well as to contractor / service provider employees;
- Ensuring that the University's machinery, equipment and infrastructure are inspected, maintained and kept in a safe working condition;
- Ensuring that the users of machinery and equipment are competent and able to do so in a safe manner;
- Ensuring that competent supervision is provided to enable employees and students to conduct their activities in a healthy, safe and environmentally acceptable manner;
- Implementing and maintaining OHS&E procedures and work practices to enable University activities to be carried out in a safe, healthy and environmentally acceptable manner;
- Disseminating OHS&E information to increase OHS&E consciousness and responsiveness;
- Encouraging staff, students, contractors and service providers to comply with OHS&E regulations, procedures and standards;
- Implementing methods to monitor contractor / service provider OHS&E compliance;
- Providing appropriate personal protective equipment / clothing as is considered necessary for the
 protection of employees / students in the course of their activities (and ensuring that employees
 and students use such equipment and/or clothing as may be required according to their risk
 exposure);
- Ensuring that hazardous articles, substances and materials are acquired, stored, handled, used, labelled, transported and discarded safely and in accordance with statutory requirements;
- Establishing an emergency response capability so that emergency situations are managed effectively; and
- Monitoring the standard of OHS&E performance within the University and implementing improvements where these are considered necessary.

University community members must also take individual and collective responsibility for preventing accidents, injuries, illnesses as well as comply with OHS&E procedures, standards and work practices.

Signed:

Date: 10th February 2016

Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Adam Habib

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