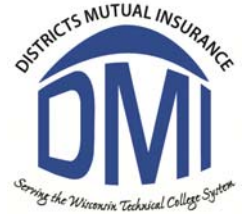


WTCS Risk & Loss Control Committee Recommendation for Safety Concerns with Sustainable Energy

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NOTE: The WTCS Risk & Loss Control Committee meets quarterly to assist in developing minimum recommendations regarding environmental, health and safety policies. One such recommendation is provided below and is being forwarded to the WTCS Risk Managers as a resource for their respective District

Many Colleges are involved in some sort of sustainable energy program on campus. Some have Bio Diesel fuel labs, others Solar Panels and some may be involved with wind energy. I had an opportunity to speak with a good friend of mine who works for OSHA about what type of safety concerns these colleges should have as they relate to the type of sustainable energy program they may have.

Solar Panels:

- Fall protection program should be instituted
- Concern regarding radiation (sun exposure)
- Understand that if your power lines are underground, Diggers' Hotline will NOT have them recorder as they are on private property. The Diggers' website will have a listing of private locators available to assist locating underground lines. (I believe on fee basis) If the college calls them, they will record them for you for future reference.
- These sources of energy should be included in your NFPA 70E program
- Does the college use batteries to store the energy, what precautions are needed for those working with these batteries?
- Is the area where the solar panels are located on a roof or on some structure on the ground? Are these areas secured?
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Bio-Diesel Fuel:

- Work with your local Fire Department **before** you set up these labs.
- Understand what the flammability of this fuel is and how will it be stored.
- What type of grounding will be required?
- What security precautions have been taken for this lab?
- Is the lab set up with the appropriate PPE and FA?
- Is the fire extinguishing equipment compatible for this fuel?
- Check the Wisconsin Flammable Liquid Code for further precautions.
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Wind Power

- Fall protection program should be instituted; including rescue provisions.
- Understand that if your power lines are underground, Diggers Hotline will NOT have them recorded as they are on private property. If the College calls them, they will record them for you for future reference.
- These sources of energy should be included in your NFPA 70E program
- Are the areas where these are located secured? Do these have a direct connect to the power grid? If so, who maintains/has access to them?

Any questions on the above information, please contact the DMI Risk and Loss Control Consultant at: 414-403-9343 or tim@districtsmutualinsurance.com.

NOTE: Many WTCS Districts have in place a variety of policies/activities to address various environmental, health and safety programs. This information is intended to provide "guidance" and not strict policy as Districts look at their needs and dynamics. The subject information, and documents found on the Districts Mutual Insurance (DMI) website may be used to develop program requirements by other Districts, however, there is no guarantee of completeness or inclusion of all possible factors and situations present within each District. For questions, contact: Tim Greene, DMI Risk and Loss Control Consultant at tim@districtsmutualinsurance.com or (414) 403-9343.