

# OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

## 2022 Highlights



Our fundamental mission is to support the research, education and patient care activities of the University through promotion of a safe and healthy environment. We achieve this by providing high quality programs, training, evaluation and consultation designed to minimize safety, health, environmental and regulatory risks to the University community.

### BY THE NUMBERS



#### TRAINING

**11,398**

courses completed by  
UVA personnel and students

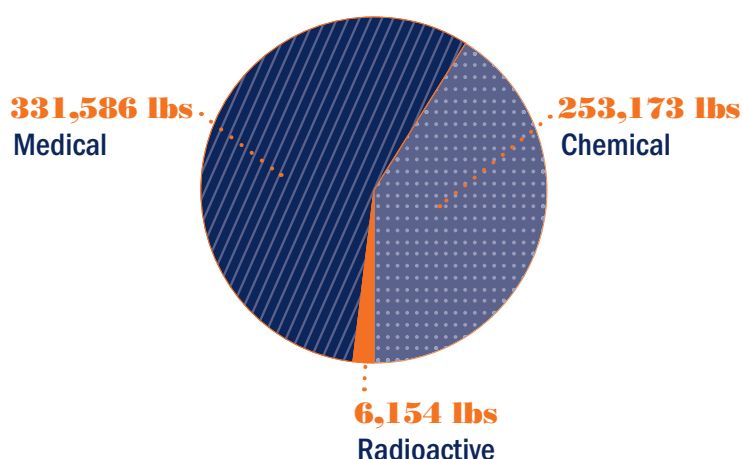


#### INSPECTIONS

**5,752**

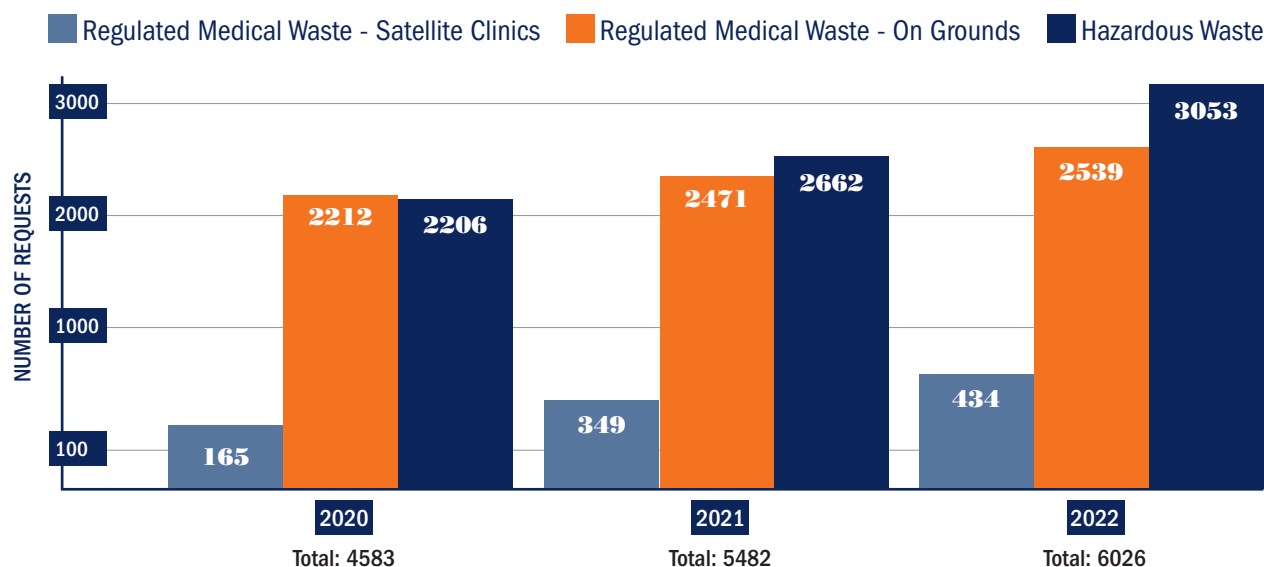
conducted by EHS staff  
to ensure compliance and  
promote safety

### REGULATED WASTE GENERATION



### WASTE PICK UP REQUESTS

EHS collection of waste containers from a given room upon request.





### Laser Safety

**25** high-powered, Class 4 research lasers were decommissioned to ensure safe and proper disposal.



### Laboratory Safety

**23** new Principal Investigators were onboarded to familiarize them with UVA's EHS policies, procedures, and services. These PIs joined **12** different departments and now occupy **41** lab spaces.



### Fire Safety

Fire safety staff processed **122** tent applications to meet Virginia Fire Code requirements.



### Occupational Safety

Occupational safety staff provided **20** Forklift Operator re-certifications and **22** new user certifications for individuals across many University schools and departments, including Environmental Health and Safety, Parking and Transportation, Printing Services, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and Arts & Sciences.



### Asbestos

**1,356** building material and air samples were collected and analyzed for asbestos or lead.



### Chemical and Laboratory Safety

**792** chemical fume hoods were certified. Chemical fume hoods are the primary engineering control for capture and removal of airborne chemicals in the laboratory.



### Biosafety

**501** biosafety cabinets were tested and certified. Biosafety cabinets serve as a primary containment device for experiments involving biological agents.



### Radiation Safety

Radiation safety staff issued **11,632** radiation dosimeters to **1,741** individuals involved in research and/or patient care. Dosimeters are used to measure the individual's radiation exposure to ensure their dose is As Low As is Reasonably Achievable (ALARA).

Radiation safety staff calibrated **101** instruments used to perform radiation surveys.

## COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

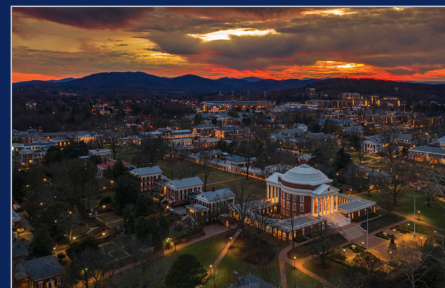
Strengthened **partnership with UVA's Office of Sustainability** to lend EHS expertise and collaboration for projects and initiatives such as lab ventilation optimization and landfill waste diversion. EHS participated in the annual Green Labs Resource Fair to engage with the academic community in promotion of sustainability-associated services and resources.

Hosted **Virginia Higher Education EHS Directors' Roundtable Meeting** – a forum attended by 21 EHS leaders from 15 Virginia colleges and universities to candidly discuss best practices, shared challenges and experiences pertaining to environmental health, safety and compliance.



Adam Peters, Hazardous Materials Program Manager, presents on Hazardous Waste Management at UVA.

UVA Hosted the 10th annual **Virginia Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) Fire Safety Symposium** – 36 fire safety professionals from 17 different Virginia colleges and universities convened to share best practices and discuss challenges. The symposium created valuable networking opportunities and included guest speakers and subject matter experts to address timely and relevant topics.



Virginia Institutes of Higher Education Fire Safety Symposium  
University of Virginia | 10 June 2022

Engaged and collaborated with **UVA College at Wise** community. EHS staff built on existing relationships with UVA-Wise to quickly onboard and provide resources, networking, support, and training for the new UVA College at Wise Laboratory Safety Officer. EHS Laboratory Safety team resumed annual, in-person visitation to Wise – the first since COVID.



# SELECT ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY

Occupational safety staff created a new skid steer operator training program to support Landscape Architecture courses. This provides students with the opportunity to complete hands-on land forming designs with a skid steer.



EHS **machine guarding** webpage resources were substantially enhanced and a subsequent machine guarding assessment in academic makerspaces and shops was initiated to increase awareness of OSHA's Machinery and Machine Guarding requirements. Staff work collaboratively with shop managers to address unique machine guarding needs, including decades-old equipment.



Physics Mechanical Technician Eric Fernandez designed and fabricated a custom guard for their milling machine

## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Undergraduate student research related medical services were transitioned from Student Health Services to UVA-WorkMed, creating a streamlined, one-stop resource for the UVA research community.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE

EPA and Virginia DEQ representatives inspected UVA hazardous waste operations in December 2022. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate institutional compliance with hazardous waste regulations. No issues of non-compliance were identified.



## FIRE SAFETY / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Created and implemented an online registration system for crowd management during graduation events.

## LASER SAFETY

EHS advised the Physics Department Shop on establishing the laser hazard control area for a newly acquired, unique, high-powered handheld laser welder.



Josh Ocheltree, Laboratory Instrument Maker/Welder/Machinist, wearing the welders' helmet he modified to be laser safe.