


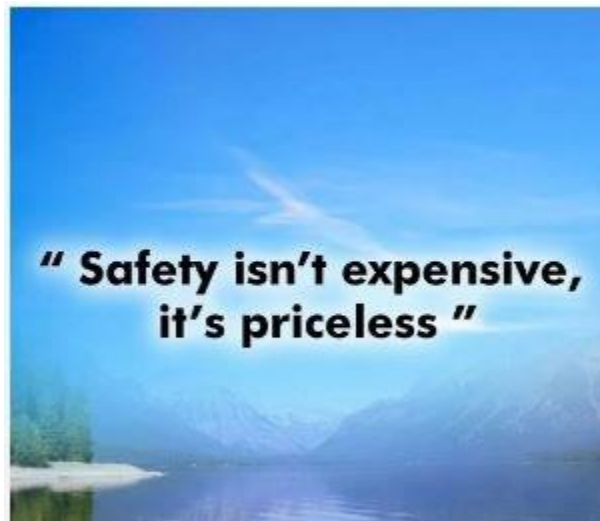


EH&S 1st Quarter Newsletter

EH&S 1st Quarter Newsletter Edition - in this issue. . .



	January:	Radon Action Month
		American Heart Month : Damar Hamlin's Challenge
		Black History Month
		Illusion Transmitter Inventor
	February:	Child Environmentalist
		EMS Gold standards - Black Paramedics
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Winter Edition

Delve into this winter edition of the Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) Department's Newsletter and join our Department in celebrating Black History month, National Radon Action month, American Heart month, National Ladder Safety month, and Brain Injury month. Learn critical information and skills in injury prevention and response to keep your work environment, fellow coworkers, families and community safe.

January- National Radon Action Month



Learn about Risk From Radon

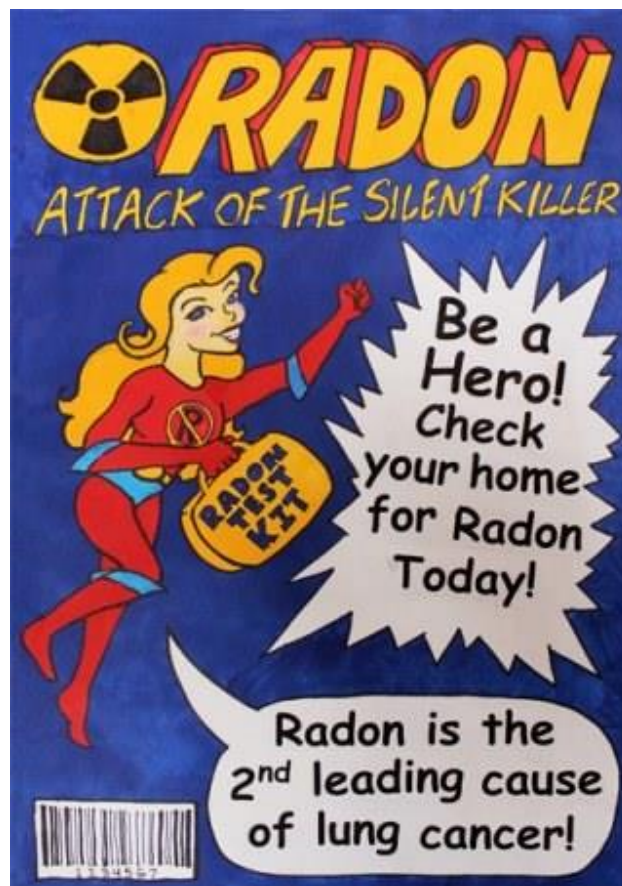
You can't see, smell or taste radon, but depending on where you live and how your home was constructed, it could be present at a dangerous level in your home. In the United States, the greatest levels of radon are found in Alaska, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Washington.

Florida is ranked among the states with the lowest radon levels, with approximately one in five homes with elevated radon levels. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) county-wide generalized potential radon zone map and additional information is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-12/documents/radon-zones-map.pdf>.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer deaths among nonsmokers in America and claims the lives of about 21,000 Americans each year. In fact, the EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes, schools and other buildings for radon.

Exposure to radon is a preventable health risk and testing radon levels in your home can help prevent unnecessary exposure. If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix the problem to protect yourself and your family.

Take Action in January



1 - National Radon Poster Winners- Sunny, Age 14 of Louisville, KY

[Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign](#) is an online learning and action network supporting the Radon Leaders Saving Lives Campaign hosted by the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, or CRCPD, with contributions from industry partners and EPA. If you would like to organize an event in your neighborhood, download the [NRAM Event Planning Kit](#).



Radon Testing in Progress

Please Do Not Disturb or Move The Device

Questions? Please call Lisa Meday, Environmental Health & Safety at
(754)-321-4200 or (954) 494-1408



Prueba De Radon En Curso

Por Favor No Molestar O Mover El Dispositivo

Preguntas? Llama Lisa Meday, Environmental Health & Safety at
(754)-321-4200 or (954) 494-1408

Note: this device contains only an air filter. It contains no toxins or chemicals.

Have you seen this sign? This sign is placed near the testing location while testing is in progress.

Broward County Schools Radon Monitoring Information

Broward County Public Schools' Environmental Health & Safety Department manages historical radon data and performs regular monitoring for radon to meet mandatory state of Florida testing requirements. Take a minute to review the following frequently asked questions to be "in the know" when the next monitoring event happens at your facility.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How is radon detected?** There are several types of testing devices. Broward Schools has contracted with State of Florida qualified and certified professionals who utilize passive testing devices which are exposed to the air, and then sent to a laboratory certified in radon testing for analysis.

- **What is the radon detection device and can it be harmful?** The radon detection device is a canister which contains a charcoal filter only. The detection device only collects air. Nothing is released from the canister into the air. The detection device contains no chemicals, no toxic compounds, and no recording devices.
- **How long will the radon detection devices be in place?** The radon detection devices must be in place for at least 48 hours under normal conditions for building occupancy. If a canister is placed in the afternoon on a Tuesday, expect it to be removed by Thursday evening.
- **Are there any special requirements during radon testing?** There are no requirements of the school except to leave the radon detection canisters in place. Don't touch or move the canisters because it will invalidate the test results.

“What is now proven was once only imagined.” Hindsight is a wonderful thing but foresight is better, especially when it comes to saving life, or some pain!” – William Blake

February- American Heart Month



Broward County Public Schools is a proud supporter of American Heart Month. Join the American Heart Association in Celebrating American Heart Month, this February. Click the link for more information.

<https://www.heart.org/>

Black or Hispanic adults who suffer a cardiac arrest outside the hospital are substantially less likely to receive CPR from someone on the street or at home. In honor of Black History Month, be the beat for your community and family. You can make an immediate impact by learning Hands-Only CPR Today.

About 90%

of people who experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest die. CPR, especially if administered immediately after cardiac arrest, can double or triple a person's chance of survival.

Nearly 3 out of 4

cardiac arrests that happen outside a hospital happen at home.



Damar Hamlin, of the Buffalo Bills, collapsed after making a tackle in the first quarter of a football game between the Bills and the Cincinnati Bengals on January 2.

Just nine minutes into the game, [Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver](#) Tee Higgins rammed into Hamlin at full speed, hitting him in the chest area after catching a 13-yard pass from quarterback Joe Burrow. The 24-year-old Hamlin stood up, appeared to adjust his helmet and took two steps before falling backward; his body appearing limp in a horrifying moment for all tuned into the game.

Hamlin went into cardiac arrest on the field. Doctors and trainers administered CPR and used a defibrillator to resuscitate him.

The 24-year-old was admitted to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center before being transferred to a Buffalo medical center on January 9. After making remarkable progress, he was released on January 11.

It is not yet known why Hamlin's heart stopped. But cardiac experts said the blow to his chest may have sent his heart into an arrhythmia. That injury is unusual: The chest must be struck in a brief moment — about 20 milliseconds — while the heart is relaxing. Miami-based cardiologist Dr. Bernard Ashby tweeted that Hamlin's injury "resembled commotio cordis—a phenomenon that occurs when a sudden blunt impact to the chest causes cardiac arrest." Despite the physicality of the NFL, this is an extremely rare occurrence; there are about 30 cases in the US each year in total.

*Now, over a month after the incident, Damar Hamlin has teamed up with the American Heart Associations to create the **#3 for Heart CPR Challenge** to encourage the public to take action to learn CPR and Give Back. Take the Challenge now at <https://www.heart.org/>*



FACT: Women, Black, Hispanic, and Latino people are less likely to receive bystander CPR

*Attention All Broward County Public School Staff! Be the one to learn CPR for your fellow co-workers, students and community members. You can be the difference for someone you love. **Register for a course in CPR/AED/ and First Aid in LAB Now!***



February- Illusion Transmitter Inventor

Earth's surface

During Thomas's three-decade career at NASA, she connected scientists with the data they need to understand our planet



Valerie Thomas speaks at 2003 event
at Elizabeth City State University

NIA-Elizabeth City State
University

Thomas's patent for the illusion transmitter was granted in 1980. Only a small fraction of United States patents belong to Black inventors, and even fewer are held by Black women. The illusion transmitter is used by NASA today, and Thomas has imagined further applications in video, television, and even surgical imaging.

2 - Read more:

<https://massivesci.com/articles/valerie-thomas-science-hero-nasa-landsat/>

Child Environmentalist

She was collecting spotted lanternfly specimens. Her neighbor became frightened and called the cops

SCIENCE

Yale honors the work of a 9-year-old Black girl whose neighbor reported her to police

Updated February 4, 2023 • 11:17 AM ET



VANESSA ROMO



Bobbi Wilson holds her collection of spotted lanternflies as she is honored at the Yale School of Public Health on Jan. 20.

Nine-year-old Bobbi Wilson may be in the fourth grade, but last month the Yale School of Public Health held a ceremony honoring the budding scientist's recent work.

The university entered Bobbi's collection of 27 spotted lanternflies — an extremely invasive species that is harmful to trees and other plants — into the Peabody Museum of Natural History database. Bobbi was also presented with the title of "donor scientist" during the Jan. 20 ceremony.

Read More: <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/03/1154049233/yale-honors-9-year-old-black-girl-neighbor-reported-police-lanternfly>



A version of this story originally appeared on [Undark](#)

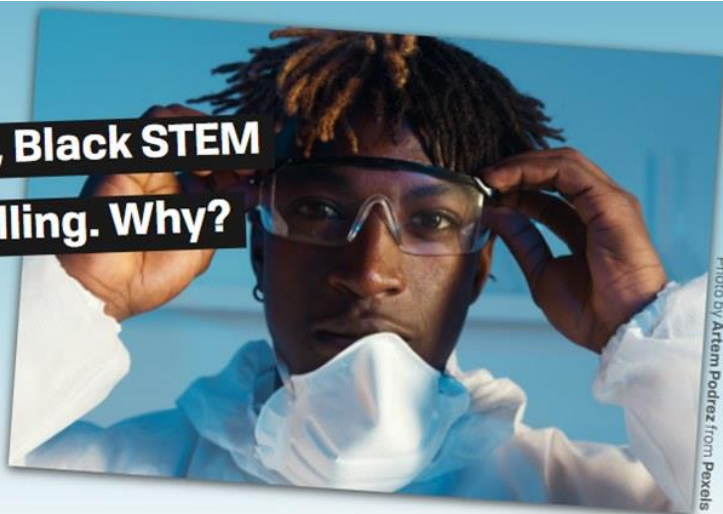
After years of gains, Black STEM representation is falling. Why?

The share of Black students completing STEM degrees was growing until the early 2000s. What went wrong?



Ashley Smart

March 9, 2021

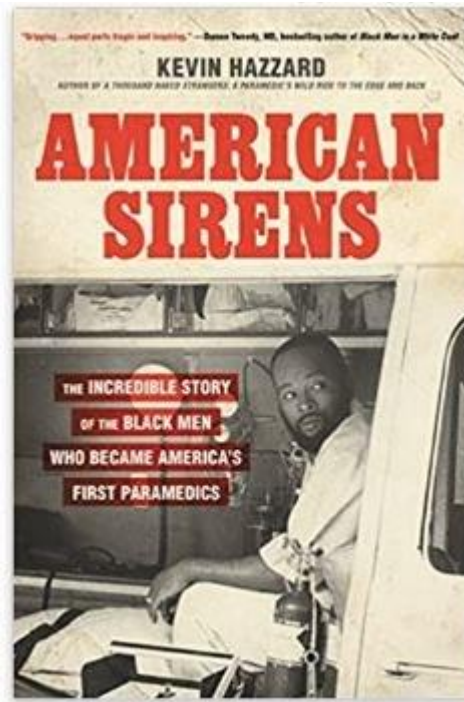


<https://massivesci.com/articles/black-in-stem-undark-degrees-representation/>

When you read the stories of Valerie Thomas and Bobbi Wilson, you will see that their stories start out pretty similar. They each had early interest and curiosity, one in mechanics, the other in environmental issues. They both decided to act on their interest. Ms. Thomas represents evidence of the past & enduring accomplishment and contribution to science; while Bobbie represents the present, and her contribution to her environment today. However, as you read the story on Bobbi, one realizes that in today's social climate, her reality could have ended very differently.

There is only one planet earth in this solar system. We are all in this together. **WE HAVE Work to DO!**

In this current culture of book bans and restricted history telling, delve into this new book by Kevin Hazzard. This is why Black History is critical.



3 - "A mostly inspiring account of the early days of **American** emergency services and the Black men who advanced the level of care and attention."

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/kevin-hazzard/american-sirens/>

The extraordinary story of an unjustly forgotten group of Black men in Pittsburgh who became the first paramedics in America, saving lives and changing the course of emergency medicine around the world

Until the 1970s, if you suffered a medical crisis, your chances of survival were minimal. A 9-1-1 call might bring police or even the local funeral home. But that all changed with Freedom House EMS in Pittsburgh, a group of Black men who became America's first paramedics and set the gold standard for emergency medicine around the world, only to have their story and their legacy erased—until now.

Excerpt taken from online promotional book ad.

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” – Warren Buffett

March- National Ladder Safety Month



Join Broward County Public Schools in spreading awareness about the importance of the safe use of ladders during National Ladder Safety Month, March 2023. Learn more about how you can be a part of this national dialogue [here](#).

National Ladder Safety Month is the only movement dedicated exclusively to the promotion of ladder safety – at home and at work.

Every year, more than 300 people die from a ladder-related accident and thousands suffer from disabling and/or debilitating injuries. These deaths and injuries could be prevented with correct ladder use. Without proper training, we will continue to see far too many fatalities. That’s why, Broward County Public Schools is excited to participate and support this important initiative.



*Ladder accidents are extremely common even though they are entirely preventable. Ladder accidents can come from a wide variety of issues including selecting the wrong ladder for the job, using worn or damaged ladders, incorrect ladder use, and incorrect placement of ladders. You must be trained in safe ladder use prior to using a ladder. **If you are untrained, ask your Head Facility Service Person to perform the task.***

More than 500,000 people receive emergency room treatment from ladder-related injuries every year. More than 300 of these falls end up being fatal.

How can I Prevent an Injury?

- Always inspect ladders before use
- Always use the correct type of ladder for the job
- Use 3 points of contact while ascending/descending ladders
- Keep your “belt buckle” within the rails of the ladder while working
- Properly set up an extension ladder using the 4:1 rule (For every 4 ft up, the base should be 1 ft from the structure.)
- Position an extension ladder at least 3 ft. above the landing or step off area

March- Brain Injury Month



The Brain Injury Association of America leads the nation in observing Brain Injury Awareness Month in March each year. The theme for the 2021 to 2023 campaign is More Than My Brain Injury.

Many people with disabilities have their lives defined for them. The #MoreThanMyBrainInjury campaign gives individuals a chance to overcome those definitions, allowing them to tell their own stories and change the narrative of their lives.

This Brain Injury Awareness Month, join the #MoreThanMyBrainInjury campaign in a way that feels uniquely *you*.

Why #MoreThanMyBrainInjury?

There are more than 5.3 million individuals in the United States who are living with a permanent brain injury-related disability. That's one in every 60 people. If you or someone you love is living with brain injury, you know that it is a misunderstood, misdiagnosed, underfunded neurological disease, and everyone's experience is different.

The #MoreThanMyBrainInjury campaign aims to:

- *Increase understanding of brain injury as a chronic condition*
 - *Reduce the stigma associated with having a brain injury*
 - *Showcase the diversity of injury and the demographics of the community*
 - *Improve care and support for individuals with brain injury and their families*
-



Brain injury is a leading cause of death and disability in the U.S.

At least 2.8 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year.

47.9%

are from falls

8.3%

are from assaults

17.1%

are from being struck by or against something

13.2%

are from other or unknown causes

13.2%

are from motor vehicle accidents



The More Than My Brain Injury Campaign

Get involved by participating in the following activities:

- **Engage creatively.** Whether you want to share your story in writing, post to social media, explore your artistic side, or amplify the voices of others, there are many different paths to raising awareness of brain injury. [Click here to access the creative toolkit.](#)
- **Get another perspective.** Read or watch the personal experiences of members of the brain injury community. [Watch one of our social media live streams](#) or [download campaign collateral.](#)
- **Speak out.** Advocates with a personal investment in the cause make the greatest champions. Why not write a letter to the editor or try to get a PSA aired on your local radio station? [Click here for ways to engage the media.](#)
- **Mobilize.** Lawmakers, activists, survivors, caretakers, and professionals joined in a virtual summit on Capitol Hill on March 16, 2022. BIAA, along with the National Association of State Head Injury Administrators and Congressional Brain Injury Task Force co-chairs Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-N.J.) and Don Bacon (R-Neb.), hosted the briefing on the importance and value of advocacy. [Review our 2022 Legislative Issue Briefs](#), [watch the summit recording](#) and then [visit our Legislative Action Center](#) to lobby your representatives.
- **Do more.** Ready to take the next step? Join the many BIAA supporters who are raising funds for brain injury services, support, and research all across the United States. [Click here to start your fundraiser.](#)



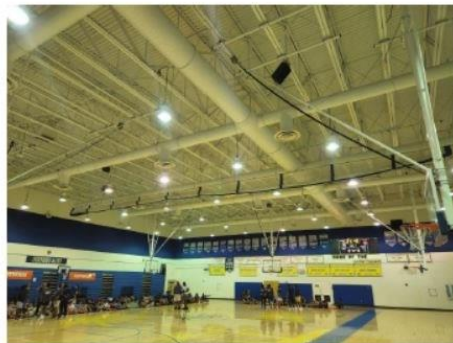
Energy Conservation & Utility Management

Lights, Lights, Lights . . .

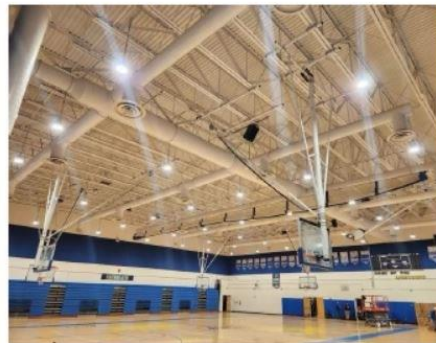
Who doesn't get excited about improved lighting?

The Energy & Utility Management team of EH&S added another successful retrofit story as they move throughout the District, updating old lighting to LED and saving the District \$\$\$. We will keep you updated on projects as they become completed.

CYPRESS BAY HS, NEW GYM LIGHTS



BEFORE



AFTER

Health & Safety Inspections



The Health & Safety and Environmental Compliance teams in the Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) Department partner to conduct inspections of our Schools and Facilities.

EH&S Specialists execute inspections on our non-instructional facilities, such as our warehouses, paint shops, bus/vehicle maintenance shops and machine shops. Inspection items on our checklists include: fall protection, hazardous chemicals, personal protection equipment (PPE) needs assessment, slip, trip, and fall hazards, indoor air quality, and much more.

In addition, the Health and Safety team coordinates and manages inspections of schools by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and our Insurance Broker, Arthur J Gallagher, for compliance with safety, maintenance, sanitation, and housekeeping standards.

Inspections can vary by both teams within the Environmental Health and Safety Department. The Environmental Compliance team assists with Indoor Air Quality, Hazardous Materials, and other environmental compliance issues. The Health and Safety team assists with State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and other regulatory compliance issues (i.e. fall protection, chemical storage, personal protection equipment, hazard assessment, slips\trips and fall).

Team Gets Involved- Fall Protection

Click through the stacked pictures to see our Warehouse/Stockroom employees getting fitted for new fall protection to enhance their safety while performing jobs at heights. Equipment has now been delivered, and manufacturer equipment training will be conducted. In addition, EH&S teams will provide employees with fall protection training as well as training on the proper maintenance and care of the new equipment.





Training News

**UPSKILLING
WITH TRAINING**



Training component of EH&S is happy to report:

- Departments now reaching out to make sure that their trade staff are participating in all necessary training. - YEAH!!!
- First completed Video based course in LAB/Canvas with closed captioning in 3 languages - English, Spanish and Hatian Creole- the course is called "Playground Safety" and will be released in the upcoming months.
- Warehouse/ Stockroom and Zones are working towards meeting compliance requirements of their Forklift and other Industy heavy equipment Certified Operators recertifications and new certs.

If your department is in need of training for any heavy duty equipment, or other safety related topics, please contact EH&S.





Environmental Health & Safety

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