



Biweekly Newsletter

FACILITIES FORUM

01 May 2024



PHOTO BY TODD PARIS

Past Progress, Future Prospects: A Recap and Look Ahead!

Dear Members of Facilities Services,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Facilities Forum! Within these digital pages, we're excited to dive into the heartbeat of our Purpose: the constant care and enhancement of UAF and all its facets. From the people who bring life to our community to the very structures that house our ambitions, this newsletter serves as a conduit for sharing the stories, updates, and achievements that shape our collective journey.

Join us as we explore the latest developments, celebrate milestones, and highlight the tireless efforts of those who work non-stop to uphold the standards of excellence that define our institution.

Thank you for being a part of Facilities Services. Together, we propel UAF forward.

Facilities team x

In this newsletter you can expect:

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New Ship's Ladder



Medivac Coverage

by Keith Nuss

During the Facility Services managers meeting a couple weeks ago, we had a guest speaker from Anchorage Daisy Saffir. Daisy is a UAF insurance claims adjuster with many years of service in the industry, her excellent presentation answered a lot of questions that had been on people's minds.

During her presentation I realized she was the same person who helped me through some insurance issues from last year and I had a chance to chat with her after the meeting. One of the questions I asked her was if our health insurance covered medivac flights (air ambulance). Her answer was yes, they are covered, however, she advised me to call Premera to verify coverage, which I did.

Right before the medivac the flight personnel encourages the patient to purchase the company's insurance policy instead of paying for the flight itself. This policy covers not only the patient but also immediate family members for a year. Seems like a bargain. I called Premera and they informed me it is not necessary to purchase the insurance. All you need to do is tell the flight personnel that the flight is most likely covered under your insurance, show your insurance card, and you're good to go. All subject to your deductible, of course.

Premera also said that the return commercial flight home is also covered. In fact, flights for medical reasons are considered medical travel and are also covered, again subject to your deductible.



For example, if you live in Fairbanks but need a procedure that must be done in Anchorage or Seattle the insurance company will most likely cover the cost. Tickets would be purchased and then submitted to Premera as a claim. In addition, flights are covered for both a parent or guardian and a minor child. This coverage is good for 3 flights per year per individual. Premera's main advice for medical travel, however, was to call them before the flight, advise them of the situation to be sure of coverage on your policy, and to be aware of what kind of documentation will be required for the claim.

I sincerely hope no one needs to have a medivac or medical flight in Alaska but if you do, keep in mind that your health insurance will probably cover it.

Announcements

May Employee of the Month - Sharon Dunham!

FY25 Open Enrollment going on NOW - Hard deadline is May 3rd

Performance Evaluations - Talk with your supervisor ASAP

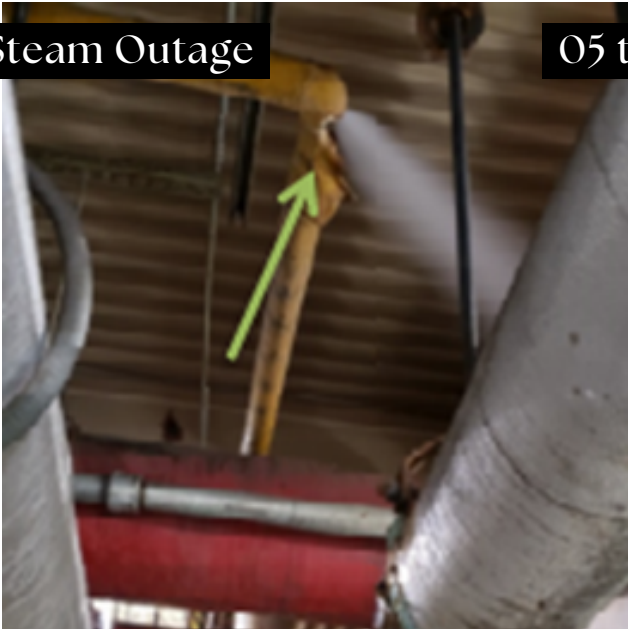
Graduation is May 4th

Steam Outage - May 5th through 18th - [PPE Requirements](#)

Reminder - End of FY24 Work Order close out

Steam Outage

05 to 18 May 2024



by Ashley Hall

Preventative maintenance during scheduled outages is imperative to the continued function of our power plant and utility systems. Starting on May 5, steam from the power plant will be shut off to the entirety of the Troth Yedtha' Campus for two weeks. Steam will return to service around May 19. This outage will turn off all heat and hot water to all buildings throughout campus. Sandwiched between commencement and the beginning of summer courses, this shutdown was planned with the intent of affecting the least amount of people. In addition, humidity control is a concern for some buildings and spring is one time during the year where those buildings are not adding humidity (like in the winter) and they are not dehumidifying (like in the summer).

Necessity: The utilidor tunnel is where steam, water, and other utilities reside that serve the buildings around campus. Currently, the main steam system within the utilidor does not have a way to shut off sections for maintenance. While this outage does not include making the necessary repairs to the current system, the installation of a series of valves will make it possible to perform future repairs and preventative maintenance on the system with much less of an impact to campus. The needed repairs are for broken concrete anchors, wall anchors, expansion joints and pipe hangers. Not only will the utilidor systems benefit from the outage, but the Atkinson power plant and the combined heat and power plant will have a handful of overdue maintenance items addressed as well. Have you been in the basement of Atkinson lately? It is hot, loud, and steamy right now with caution tape in several areas! From holes leaking steam in pipes, and flash tanks, to broken valves, this outage is a much-needed time to repair these mechanical

components. I have not been involved with all the work that will be happening in the combined heat and power plant, but it will have its own projects happening there as well.

Preparation: In addition to the typical drawings, specifications, and construction contract, we needed to prepare for the effects of the hot water outage. Anyone want to join in a polar cold shower challenge? Hot water for showers was a hurdle, but facilities has been working hard preparing for this outage. The housing units on North Chandalar have had their electric hot water heaters reconnected, so they can be utilized during the outage. Two temporary shower trailers will soon arrive on campus for residents as well as the fire station staff. Security for this trailer ended up being another animal in itself, but we met and came up with a solution. Lastly, we set up an account with a local laundromat that has shower facilities to allow staff and students to use the showers.

The closer we get to the outage and the more people we can notify, the more hot water needs we are hearing about. So, the more we can spread the word now, the better we can accommodate the needs of campus during this outage.

I will also be praying for good weather during those two weeks and maybe bringing an extra sweater and blanket to work, just in case I get cold. Thank you to everyone for supporting this outage, it is very much needed and will enable vital future repairs.



Gravel Removal



PHOTOS BY AMBER MCKIRGAN



Top Left: George Keeney operating the CAT skid steer with a sweeper attachment removing gravel from the West Bunnell lawn. Top Right: Raif Johnson-Kennedy using a power broom to remove gravel from campus lawns. Bottom Left: Casey Stagno operating the Pelican Street Sweeper. Bottom Right, Left to Right: Vincent Wade, Oscar Queen, Jacoppi Pahkamaa, and Randy O'Brien. Members of the Grounds crew removing gravel from the West Bunnell lawn using backpack blowers and power brooms.

Current Recruitments

[Senior Mechanical Engineer](#)

[Accounting Tech](#)

[Maintenance Mechanic](#)

[FS Pool Tech](#)

[CT3 Electrician -Utilities](#)

[Maintenance Plumber](#)

[Mechanical Engineer](#)

[Painter/Maint Mechanic](#)

[Procurement Technician](#)

[Asbestos Abatement Tech](#)

[Building Tech Kodiak](#)

[Customer Service Coordinator](#)



EH&S New Ship's Ladder

by Jason Schoening

The carpenter shop did an great job installing a ship's ladder at the Environmental Health and Safety building, facilitating safer and more efficient access to the HVAC equipment. This installation is a significant improvement from the previous access method of propping a ladder, which was not only cumbersome but also posed safety risks to technicians. The new ship's ladder is robust and well-crafted with safety standards in mind. They also added a plywood landing platform so stepping on and off the loft is much safer.

This upgrade directly contributes to a safer working environment for our technicians, ensuring that they can perform maintenance

and inspections with greater ease and security. The thoughtful design minimizes the risk of accidents and enables technicians to focus on their work without safety concerns. Overall, the carpenter shop's contribution enhances operational efficiency and safety, underscoring their commitment to supporting essential services within our organization.

Thank you for reading!



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