Around Campus: The Remsen Fire

Campus Services is the go-to division that keeps Dartmouth operations running 24/7, in any weather and through any emergency. It’s important, though, to recognize a significant event, such as Sunday’s fire in the Remsen building, to acknowledge employees’ actions that went above and beyond.

Just after 7 a.m. on Sunday, an automated alarm informed the Hanover Fire Dept. (HFD) and FO&M Troubleshooters of the fire. Immediately, the FO&M manager on-duty Todd French was called, as was Custodial Services Director Larose Saint Jean. They, in turn, called in other employees whose skills would be necessary. Larose sensed smoke as soon as he entered the building. With elevators shut down, all responders used the stairs to reach the 7th floor lab where the fire began. Water from the fire hoses, noticeable on all floors, was the biggest challenge for the FO&M team. “No one knew the extent of damage,” Larose said, “but the staff did an amazing job. People jumped into help without question, and I am very impressed and proud of their work and work ethic.”

A list of all responders is posted to the TV monitors.

THANK YOU to all!
- 11 custodians provided invaluable assistance.
- Josh Thomasson, the Custodial Supervisor on-call, responded immediately to Larose’s call by contacting additional custodians and overseeing their work.
- Nicki Woods, acting Custodial Squad leader, showed strong leadership skills on scene.
- Laurie Tostensen, Quality Assurance Coordinator, was first to inform Larose of the fire and coordinated lunch for those on-site.
- Jason Angell and Erik Pietrowicz from EHS provided expertise in lab and chemical safety that was invaluable to the responders. Both were on site at Remsen.
- Troubleshooters Curtis Pellerin & Larry Russ were first on scene to support the HFD. At shift change, they handed duties over to Seth Chambers & Jon Parker.
- Craig McKinney was first on the scene as a Hanover firefighter, but put on his Dartmouth hat to secure the sprinkler systems and fire panels.
- Bruce Plummer was supporting campus events, but responded to the fire and assisted with HFD requests.

During Employee Appreciation Week, we extend a sincere thank you to every Campus Services employee. Your work is essential to Dartmouth operations. And equally important is HOW you go about your work—with a commitment to service, a willing attitude and strong teamwork that is demonstrated in your actions. So, thank you!

You are appreciated every day.

Please note that Nick’s Office Hours for the month of March have been posted to the TV monitors and the Culture and Employee Wellbeing website. Take advantage of this time to discuss cultural challenges of the workplace or ideas for improvement.

Did you Know? A Shoe Store

On Friday, March 10, Industrial Protection Products will bring a mobile shoe store to campus. A variety of shoes will be available, including safety toe boots and shoes with slip resistant soles. The truck will be open from 9 am to 12 pm, and from 1 to 5 pm. The mobile shoe store will be open to all employees who wish to purchase work shoes. Please reach out to EHS with any questions: ehs@dartmouth.edu; 603-646-1762.

Friendly Reminders

Don’t forget the First Friday of the month is March 3. Enjoy a $5 meal at ‘53 Commons from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. or get a $10 credit from 9-30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

We’re excited to see you at one of the Town Hall meetings held on Tuesday, March 7 at 2-3:30 p.m. and 10-11:30 p.m. at Murdough’s Cook Auditorium. Come enjoy the ice-cream social to celebrate Employee Appreciation Week, receive some cool swag, and learn about the latest goings-on within the division.

The meeting will be recorded so those who are unable to attend can watch at another date and time.

Be sure to check out information posted to our TV monitors. You can move quickly from one slide to the next by using your right/left arrow keys.