

Welcome to the March 2017 edition of Safety Matters

As you will know Moira Simpson left her role as Health and Safety Services, Director at the end of October and we were delighted to welcome her replacement, Jenny McGrother. Also joining the team in February was Abhishek Upadhyay as Biological and Scientific Adviser.

Abhishek joins us from the University of Bath and takes up the role vacated by Gretta

has already had the opportunity to meet many of you. She can be contacted on 0118 378 8889 or j.mcgrother@reading.ac.uk Safety Matters March 2017 Please be cautious about buying unbranded batteries on line - our advice is get the proprietary battery for your equipment (i.e. if you have a HP laptop buy a HP battery) – it may be more expensive but will be safer.

Although we have had not had a fire at the University of Reading involving a tumble dryer, hardly a day goes by without another report in the news about a fire involving a tumble dryer. We do have a few tumble dryers in use at the University and we have checked to see if any of these have been subject to manufactures recall. None of the dryers in use at the University are currently subject to recall at the moment. been used for mopping up flammable liquids in the dryer.

Tumble dryers should never by left running unsupervised whether at work or at home. If you have a tumble dryer at home then we advise you identify the make and model and check with the manufacturer if it is been subject to product recall.

Actually that is good news

Reporting of near miss incidents continues to increase following our ongoing campaign to raise their importance. Reporting these incidents means that we can investigate and learn from

The main reason for a tumble dryer to catch fire is a clogged up lint filter. Depending on the frequency of use of the dryer the lint filter may need cleaning on a daily basis. Also, make sure that the vent pipe (if fitted – some condenser dryers do not need one) is not blocked or kinked in any way. Finally do not put any materials that have