# Environmental Health and Safety

**Department Mission:**
The mission of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) is to educate and adopt effective safety, health and environmental practices, continuously improving the organizational safety culture to ensure the welfare of students, faculty, staff and visitors. EH&S provides supportive technical consultation, training, investigation, and inspection to ensure compliance with guidelines set forth by federal, state and local laws and regulations.

**Department Areas of Responsibilities:**

**Department Head:**
**James Wright,** PhD, CSP, has been with the University since 2009 and currently serves as Assistant Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety. He is responsible for overseeing Emergency Management, Business Continuity, Records Retention, Facilities Inventory, Environmental Management, Fire and Life Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Occupational Health, Environmental Health and Safety Training, Workers Compensation, and Risk Management and Insurance for the University.

Prior to joining UT Dallas, Dr. Wright served as the founding director for the Safety Training, Instruction and Resource Center at Iowa State University. He also held several assistant professor and lecturer roles regarding occupational safety at Iowa State, Drake University and Des Moines Area Community College. Dr. Wright started his career in occupational safety with John Deere in the World Wide Agricultural Equipment Division and served as its Director of Safety and Health before transitioning into the world of academia. At John Deere, he worked in safety and health areas providing organizational policies, process improvement, and procedures that provided a safe and secure work environment. This included training and development, performance management, loss prevention, occupational health, and emergency management initiatives.

Dr. Wright holds a Ph.D. in Industrial Technology and Education, with a focus in Occupational Safety and Agricultural and Bio-Systems Engineering from Iowa State University. He Earned an Ed.S. and M.S.E. from Drake University; a B.S. in Human Services and Public Safety Services and an A.S. in Public & Social Services from Thomas Edison State University; and an A.A. in Liberal Arts from the University of the State of New York. He is a certificated OSHA Outreach Trainer, Fraud Examiner, Protection Professional and Safety Professional, and was selected to participate in the Leadership Dallas program.

**Additional Department Notes:**
Each year, EH&S offers a variety of educational programs to campus, including its annual Preparedness Fair where students, faculty and staff are invited to experience safety, emergency, and health demonstrations and information booths.