

Health and Safety Urban Legends

Lorraine Davison, CCOHS
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What Are Urban Legends?

- ★ Great story often retold “urban folklore”
 - Funny, sad or horrifying
 - Usually instructive
- ★ Sounds too good to be true!
- ★ Often happened to a friend of a friend
 - You are told that “this really happened”

Are Urban Legends True?

- ★ Some true – some false
- ★ If you hear the same story retold with new variations – these usually never happened
- ★ Some legends can be traced historically
- ★ Tell-tale warning signs can occur (hoax)
- ★ Spread by word-of-mouth, e-mail, the Internet, and often retold via newspapers, radio and TV

Why do Legends spread?

- ★ Great stories you want to share
- ★ Sounds believable
- ★ Most people assume the truth
- ★ Most people want to help
- ★ We have lots of people we can send e-mail to very quickly (more on hoaxes)

Current H&S Legends

- ✦ E-mail Virus Hoaxes
- ✦ Dihydrogen Monoxide
- ✦ Breast Cancer and Antiperspirants
- ✦ Other Toxins of the Day
- ✦ Gas Pump Fires
- ✦ SARS Virus
- ✦ Spider under the Toilet
- ✦ Photo Gallery

E-mail Virus Hoaxes

I'm sorry about this; but I received this E-mail from a client regarding a virus that was inadvertently passed on to everyone in their address book. I followed the instructions and YES, IT WAS ON MY COMPUTER.

Since you are in my address book, I am sending this on to you as a precaution. NORTON 2002 DID NOT DETECT IT!

Here are the instructions on how to check for this virus and delete it if you have it too. It only took a few minutes, following these instructions. Be sure to notify all in your address book too (which will take longer than deleting the virus from your computer).

Since you are in our address book, there is a good chance you will find it in your computer too unless you have an Apple or MAC. The virus (called jdbgmgr.exe) is not detected by Norton or McAfee anti-virus systems. The virus sits quietly for 14 days before damaging the system. It is sent automatically by messenger and by the address book, whether or not you sent Emails to your contacts. Here's how to check for the virus and how to get rid of it:

YOU MUST DO THIS

1. Go to Start, Go to Find or Search option
2. In the File Folder option, type the name: jdbgmgr.exe

E-mail Virus Hoaxes

☀ Jdbgmgr.exe

☀ Sulfnbk.exe

\$800 from Microsoft
3b Trojan
AIDS
Antichrist
AOL4Free Virus
AOL and Intel
AOL.EXE
AOL Flashing IM
AOL RIOT 2 Virus
AOL Year 2000 Update
Awareness Virus
Baby New Year Virus
Bad Times
Be My Valentine
Be Spooked
Bicho7
Big Brother
Blue Mountain Virus
Blueballs Are Underrated
BUDDYLST.ZIP
BUDSAVER.EXE
Budweiser
BUGGLST

California IBM
California Virus
CELLSAVER Virus
CLEANMGR.EXE Warning
Coke.exe
D@Fit
Dana
Dear Friends
Death69
Deeyenda
Desi1love
Despite Virus
Discount Virus
E-Flu
eBook
Economic Slow Down
Elecciones 2000
EVIL THE CAT Virus
Family Pictures
FatCat Virus
February 1
Flashmaster G
Flower for You

Foot N Mouth Virus
Warning
Forward
FREE M & M's
Free Money
Free Pizza Virus
FROGAPULT, ELFBOWL,
Y2KGAME Virus
Gamma2.exe
GAP Email Tracking
Get More Money
Ghost
Gift from Microsoft
Girl Thing
Go Hip
Goldbear Virus
Good Times
Guts to Say Jesus
Hacky Birthday Virus
Halloween Virus
Happy New Year Virus
Hello Dear
Hairy Palms Virus
Help Poor Dog
Hitler
How to Give a Cat a
Colonic
INFILTER
Infoon SARC 'Virus Test'
Iraq War
Irina
Irish Virus



JDBGMGR.EXE

Jan1st20.exe Virus
Jdbgmgr.exe file
John Kennedy Jr Trojan
Join the Crew
Launch Nuclear Strike Now
Let's Watch TV
Life is Beautiful
Londhouse Virus
Lotus Notes Worm
Lump of Coal Virus
Macdonald's Screensaver
Matrix Virus
Microsoft Virus
Millennium Time Bomb
MobilVirus
MOBILE PHONE
MSN Messenger add a Contact
MusicPanel
NASTYFRIEND99
The New Ice Age
NEWYORK BIG DIRT
Norman Virus
Norton anti - virus v5
Osama vs Bush
Outback Steakhouse
Pandemic

E-mail Hoax Busters

- ★ www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html
- ★ vil.mcafee.com/hoax.asp
- ★ hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBMalCode.shtml
- ★ Search Google.com for “virus name”

Dihydrogen Monoxide

Ban Dihydrogen Monoxide!

The Invisible Killer

Dihydrogen monoxide is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and **kills** uncounted thousands of people every year. Most of these deaths are caused by accidental inhalation of DHMO, but the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide do not end there. Prolonged exposure to its solid form causes severe tissue damage. Symptoms of DHMO ingestion can include excessive sweating and urination, and possibly a bloated feeling, nausea, vomiting and body electrolyte imbalance. For those who have become dependent, DHMO withdrawal means certain death.

Dihydrogen monoxide:

- is also known as hydroxyl acid, and is the major component of acid rain.
- contributes to the "greenhouse effect."
- may cause severe burns.
- contributes to the erosion of our natural landscape.
- accelerates corrosion and rusting of many metals.
- may cause electrical failures and decreased effectiveness of automobile brakes.
- has been found in excised tumors of terminal cancer patients.

Contamination Is Reaching Epidemic Proportions!

Quantities of dihydrogen monoxide have been found in almost every stream, lake, and reservoir in America today. But the pollution is global, and the contaminant has even been found in Antarctic ice. DHMO has caused **millions** of dollars of property damage in the midwest, and recently California.

Breast Cancer Hoaxes

BREAST CANCER PREVENTION

Not just for women -- men don't forget to tell mom, cousins, etc. Deodorants (non-antiperspirants) are very hard to find but there are a few out there.

I just got information from a health seminar that I would like to share.

The leading cause of breast cancer is the use of anti-perspirant.

What? Yes ANTI-PERSPIRANT. Most of the products out there are an anti-perspirant/deodorant combination so go home and check your labels.

Deodorant is fine, anti-perspirant is not. Here's why:

The human body has a few areas that it uses to purge toxins; behind the knees, behind the ears, groin area, and armpits. The toxins are purged in the form of perspiration.

Anti-perspirant, as the name clearly indicates, prevents you from perspiring, thereby inhibiting the body from purging toxins from below the armpits. These toxins do not just magically disappear. Instead, the body deposits them in the lymph nodes below the arms since it cannot sweat them out. This causes a high concentration of toxins and leads to cell mutations: a.k.a. CANCER. Nearly all breast cancer tumors occur in the upper outside quadrant of the breast area. This is precisely where the lymph nodes are located.

Breast Cancer Rebuttals

- ✦ The American Cancer Society
- ✦ The National Cancer Institute
- ✦ Center for Disease Control

Other Toxins of the Day

- ★ Shampoo Causes Cancer
- ★ Sunscreen Causes Blindness
- ★ Tampons, Asbestos, and Dioxin
- ★ Aspartame Disease
- ★ Bananas & Flesh-Eating Disease
- ★ Canola Oil Is Hazardous
- ★ Febreze Warning

Fires at Gas Stations



Stop Static.

An e-mail is circulating that did not originate from PEI or API.

Remarks regarding cellular phones, victim gender and footwear are inaccurate. Only refueling fires that appear to be started by static electrical discharge are detailed in our report. It does not pertain to cellular telephones. In fact PEI has never been able to document a single refueling incident caused by a cell phone.

Static Fires

1. Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women. - **EXAGGERATED.**
2. Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas... - **EXAGGERATED.**
3. Most had on rubber-soled shoes. **UNKNOWN**
4. Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. - **EXAGGERATED.**
5. Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas. - **FALSE & IRRELEVANT.**
6. Several of the 150 cases involved Dodge Caravans. - **FALSE.**

SARS Virus – posted April 13

SARS Infects Restaurant Workers in Asian Neighborhoods

Netlore Archive: Variants of a widespread rumor claim the SARS epidemic threatens local communities across North America via infected workers at restaurants and groceries in Chinatowns and other Asian neighborhoods

- ✦ Malicious e-mails identify stores and people who have died or are sick
- ✦ Alarmist hoax, rumors and media sensationalism have made “Fear of SARS” an epidemic disease as well

Blush spider *Arachnius gluteus*



WARNING: From Texas A&M International University

An article by Dr. Beverly Clark, in the Journal of the United Medical Association (JUMA), the mystery behind a recent spate of deaths has been solved. If you haven't already heard about it in the news, here is what happened.

Three women in Chicago, turned up at hospitals over a 5-day period, all with the same symptoms. Fever, chills, and vomiting, followed by muscular collapse, paralysis, and finally, death. There were no outward signs of trauma. Autopsy results showed toxicity in the blood.

Picture Gallery

☀ Columbia Explosion photos

“Attached are pictures of the Shuttle Explosion from an Israeli Satellite in space. They are from the Department of Justice in Washington D.C.”



Picture Gallery

Columbia Explosion

Why is this a Fake?

- ✦ Space not atmosphere
- ✦ Nighttime not daytime explosion
- ✦ 12,000 mph?
- ✦ Ionization from heat of re-entry?

Picture Gallery





Signs it's an Email Hoax

Courtesy of hoaxbusters.ciac.org

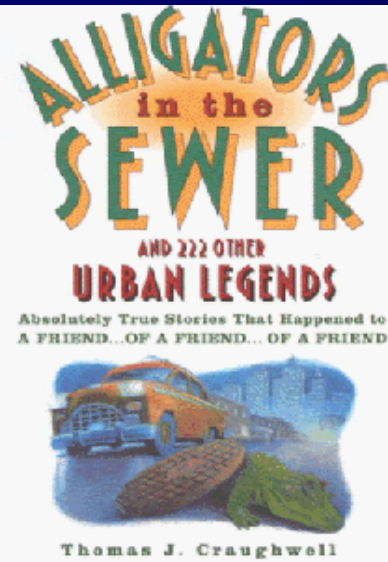
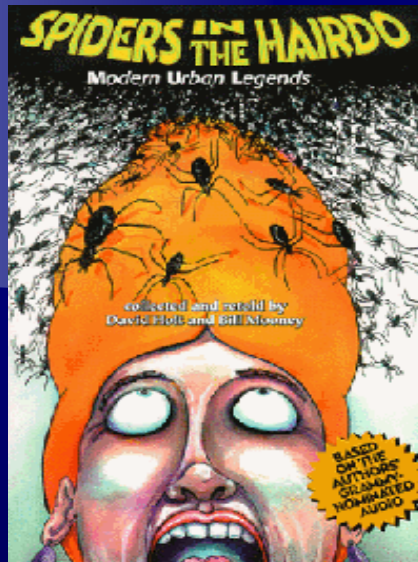
- ★ Dire advice and warning!!!
“send this to everyone you know”
- ★ Story is very plausible
- ★ Source is an expert and should know
- ★ Letters always have recognizable parts:
A Hook - A Threat - A Request
- ★ Solution – when in doubt don't send it out
Validate stories thru Urban Legend websites

Websites on Urban Legends

- ★ Alt.folklore.urban & Urban Legends Archives
www.urbanlegends.com
- ★ Urban Legends and Folklore
urbanlegends.about.com
- ★ Hoaxbusters
hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBUrbanMyths.shtml
- ★ Urban Legends Reference Pages
www.snopes2.com/
- ★ Darwin Awards – Fictional or worse
www.darwinawards.com

Books on Urban Legends

Jan Harold Brunvand and Other Authors



Thank-you!

Lorraind@ccohs.ca

www.ccohs.ca