

LABORATORY SAFETY

Laboratories have many hazards associated with them. Safety rules and regulations are created to protect laboratory personnel from unsafe work practices and exposure to hazardous materials. Part of a good safety culture is communication and discussion about safety hazards within the laboratory. Below are some basic guidelines for maintaining a safe laboratory environment.

- To ensure that help is available if needed, do not work alone if using hazardous materials or performing hazardous procedures.
- To ensure that help is available in case of emergencies, laboratory personnel should not deviate from the assigned work schedule without prior authorization from the laboratory supervisor.
- Do not perform unauthorized experiments.
- Follow the appropriate standard operating procedures at all times in the laboratory.
- Always read the Safety Data Sheets and label before using a chemical in the laboratory.
- Everyone, including visitors, must wear appropriate PPE, including eye protection and laboratory coat or apron in areas where laboratory chemicals are used or stored.
- Wear appropriate gloves when handling hazardous materials. Inspect all gloves for holes and defects before using.
- Use appropriate ventilation such as laboratory chemical hoods when working with hazardous chemicals.
- Contact the EHS office if you have questions about the adequacy of the safety equipment available or the chemical handling procedures.
- Know the location and proper use of the safety equipment (i.e., eyewash, safety shower, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, fire alarm pulls)
- Maintain situational awareness.
- Make others in the laboratory aware of any special hazards associated with your work.
- Notify supervisors of any chemical sensitivities.
- Report all injuries, accidents, incidents and near misses to your supervisor and EHS.
- Do not allow unauthorized persons in the laboratory.
- Report unsafe conditions to the laboratory supervisor and EHS.
- Properly dispose of all chemical wastes, by contacting the EHS office. Follow organizational policies for drain and trash disposal of chemicals.

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