Attention All Chairs, Directors and Administrator’s!
Do you have a new P.I. in your department?

Just a reminder to have him/her contact EH&S’s Laboratory Safety Unit. We would like to welcome them to the University and touch base on their needs for their laboratory set-up. For more information, see the link below.

Thank you,

[Information for New PI’s in Research Laboratories]

NEW STUDENTS/NEW YEAR
LAB SAFETY REVIEW

Nationally, severe injuries or deaths have occurred to lab personnel wearing inappropriate clothing or when their hair was caught in moving lab equipment. Although the PI/supervisor is responsible for having his/her personnel wear appropriate apparel, EH&S requires lab personnel:

- to confine or tie long hair and loose clothing;
- utilize break-away lanyards for IDs;
- wear only shoes that fully enclose the foot;
- never wear high-heeled shoes or light weight shoes/slippers that do not provide protection from broken glass or hazardous materials on the floor;
- not wear dangling jewelry or clothing containing dangling laces, strings or neckties;
- wear lab coats to minimize potential fire hazards or chemical contamination when working with chemicals, especially flammable and pyrophoric materials;
- utilize natural fibers (cotton) when working with flammable materials as this material is less combustible than synthetic fabrics;
- wear eye/face protection and other PPE when required.

Failure to adhere to these minimum requirements can lead to laboratory injuries and exposures!

Be Proactive—DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

IMPORTANT NEWS
RESEARCH LASERS

The updated “Laser Safety Program for Research and Teaching Laboratories” is now on our web site. Those using lasers need to take a few minutes to review the document to ensure compliance for the safe use of lasers.

http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/lasers/researchlasersprogram.html

Each September you need to register your lasers. Use the following link to download the registration form and once completed, fax it to EH&S at 274-0001 or mail it to EH&S Box 278878:


NEAR MISS REPORTING

As of September 1st 2015, the University of Rochester will be using a new system to report and track Near Miss events. A near miss is defined as an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage— but had the potential to do so.

We ask that all Employee Near Miss forms be submitted within 24 hours of the occurrence. Employees are also encouraged to review the incident with their fellow co-workers and collectively agree on how to reduce the potential hazard. If the near miss occurrence poses an imminent risk or hazard to others, the area should be closed off and Public Safety notified at x13.

The near miss form can be found on any Environmental Health and Safety webpage on the top right of the page directly under the Employee Incident Form. All information provided will be kept confidential upon request, as stated in the University of Rochester’s Policy 108 on Confidentiality.

All employees should continue to use the Employee Incident Form for reporting an actual incident or injury. As always, if you have any questions about this form please contact Environmental Health and Safety at 275-3241 or by email at questions@safety.rochester.edu.
The University of Rochester Environmental Compliance Unit is making the switch to CHEMATIX and so are you!

To get started, take a moment to complete your CHEMATIX registration at:

http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix_intro.html

Using the waste module is simple! Check out the EH&S website for training information and videos:

![Chematix Waste Module](image)

Say goodbye to the 3-part blue tag system of labeling for hazardous waste!

What CAN I do with CHEMATIX?

1. Create a waste card for my container. This waste card can also be used as your hazardous waste label
2. Edit the waste card
3. Print the waste card
4. Re-print your waste card and use as a template in your Hot List—this is a GREAT time saving feature if you tend to generate the same type of waste
5. Automate your waste pick-up request, this means you don not have to call Environmental Compliance for a pick-up!

What CAN'T I do with CHEMATIX?

1. Dispose of Biohazard or Radiological wastes!! CHEMATIX can ONLY be used for hazardous chemical waste
2. Copy a single waste card for multiple waste containers – waste cards are uniquely barcode and multiple instances of the same barcode will not be accepted!
3. Make coffee
4. Plan your experiment
5. Write your dissertation

http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix_intro.html

Note: General questions about Chematix or getting your lab set up in Chematix should be directed to questions@safety.rochester.edu or to Janet Ives (jives@safety.rochester.edu). Specific questions about hazardous waste can be directed to Environmental Compliance at 275-2056 or to Jim Gosnell.
We have a problem when tape is used over the Chematix waste tags. Although the new tags can be used as a label to identify the contents, some vital information is lost when the tag gets processed.

You have 2 simple options when disposing of the waste bottles. When the waste bottle is ¾ full:

1. The entire tag can be attached to the bottle cap with a small piece of tape.
2. The top portion of the tag stating “HAZARDOUS WASTE” and the bar code can be cut off and taped to the bottle cap.

Thank you.

Environmental Health and Safety/Environmental Compliance Unit. 585.275.6751

****SAFETY DATA SHEET INFORMATION****

Looking for Safety Data Sheets? See next newsletter about the availability of SDS through CHEMATIX.
*Do your part for a sustainable future. Reducing the number of operating freezers reduces overall noise in a location and reduces energy costs.*

*Inventory your biological samples to ensure accurate records.*

*Dispose of unwanted samples and consolidate your freezer space.*

*Un-clutter your space by donating un-needed freezers.*

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**DETTOX YOUR ICEBOX**

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**LAB DECOMMISSIONING**

So….you have taken a position at another institution or are retiring and need to close down your lab. **What’s next?**

1. Notify the Laboratory Safety Unit at **275-3241**.
   - You need to have your Laboratory Safety Specialist verify all the activities have been completed under the Laboratory Decommissioning Program.
   - All the required activities can be found at: http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/labdecomission/labdecommission.html

2. If you have active IBC projects, notify the IBC Program Coordinator at **275-2402**.
   - It is necessary to terminate your active protocols with the IBC office. Will you terminate the project or transfer the project to another PI within your department for continuation?
   - We need to track your biologicals - BSL and ABSL (if applicable).

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Questions? We’re here to help! Call 5-3241 or e-mail Environmental Health and Safety at questions@safety.rochester.edu
What to do in the event you are caught in a Flood!

- Flash floods can occur within minutes or hours of a heavy rainfall, and waters can rise as high as 30 feet or more. Even small streams and creeks can flood rapidly and cause damage. Flash floods are usually caused by slow-moving thunderstorms.

- Flash floods can move homes and cars, uproot trees and destroy bridges. Because floods happen with little to no warning, residents in low-lying areas are particularly at risk. According to the American Red Cross, flash floods are the No. 1 weather-related killer in the U.S.

- Almost half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle related, according to the National Weather Service. If you're driving and approach a water-covered road, turn around. Just 6 inches of water can stall a vehicle, and 2 feet can float most cars, trucks and SUVs. Here are some other tips to stay high and dry:
  - Know your proximity to rivers, streams and dams
  - During heavy rain, avoid underpasses, underground parking garages and basements
  - Avoid hiking or camping if thunderstorms are predicted
  - Develop an evacuation plan for your family
  - Don't walk in water above your ankles; you can be swept off your feet in as little as 6 inches of rushing water
  - Turn off the electricity and other utilities

HOME SAFETY TIPS AS WE ENTER INTO THE FALL SEASON!

Smoke Alarms

There is one smoke alarm on every level of the home and inside and outside each sleeping area. Smoke alarms are tested and cleaned monthly. Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed. Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.

Heating Safety

Chimney and furnace are cleaned and inspected yearly. Furniture and other items that can catch fire are at least 3 feet from fireplaces, wall heaters, baseboards, and space heaters. Fireplace and barbecue ashes are placed outdoors in a covered metal container at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire. Extension cords are never used with space heaters. Heaters are approved by a national testing laboratory and have tip-over shut-off function.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home. Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.