

# EHS Laboratory Safety Unit Newsletter

January 3rd, 2019



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## Fire Incident in KMRB:



On Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> 2018, a fire occurred on the first floor of KMRB. Upon investigation by Environmental Health and Safety, Public Safety, and the Rochester Fire Department, it was determined that the cause of the fire was an unknown chemical reaction of improperly disposed chemicals within a 96 gallon red biological hazard toter, melting the toter and damaging the immediate area. Upon further investigation of the surrounding area, several biohazardous waste and clean glass waste containers also contained additional chemicals. This resulted in a secondary fire and the potential for more. Thankfully, no injuries were incurred during these fires.

This incident is a strong reminder of the importance of proper disposal of chemicals through Chematix and the Environmental Compliance Unit. **DO NOT** dispose of any chemical materials outside of Chematix and the Environmental Compliance Unit. General instructions for disposing of waste can be found here: [http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix/waste\\_module.html](http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix/waste_module.html). If you have any specific questions in regards to waste and/or proper disposal please call the Environmental Compliance Unit (275-2056).

## Laboratory Safety Training:

In 2019 Blackboard will no longer be assessable for training materials for students and visitors. Instead, all training will be completed in MyPath. If you already have MyPath access, you will access the system normally through <https://mypath.rochester.edu/>. If you are not an employee, (student, visiting scientist, etc.), you may access the MyPath portal [here](#). All Laboratory Safety Training modules **must be taken annually**.

Spread the news about our Newsletter to the Research Community! Join through this listserv e-mail <http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/newsletterindex.html>, and message "Subscribe to URLaboratorySafety" and listing your first/last name.

## Laboratory Safety Unit

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The latest University updates  
for your laboratory.

## Policy & Guideline Updates:

There have been minor updates to the Sonicator Safety Guidelines and Autoclave Policy.

1. **Sonicator Safety Guideline:** Sonicator are high-frequency sound generators used to disrupt cells or shear nucleic acids. If your lab currently uses or is planning on using a sonicator, please review our website.
2. **Autoclave Policy:** An autoclave is a strong, pressurized, steam-heated vessel used for sterilization and/or laboratory experiments. The policy, which gives step by step general instructions on how to operate the equipment safely can also be found on our website.

## Voluntary Use of Respirators:

Environmental Health and Safety would like to remind you on the proper use of voluntary respirators for nuisance dusts and particulates. Specifically N95, P95, and R95 respirators. These types of respirators may be worn for voluntary use as long as the proper steps and documentation have occurred. The Voluntary Use Respirator Form, Appendix D of the University's Respirator Program that can be found here:

[https://www.safety.rochester.edu/ih/respiratoryprotection/pdf/respprogram\\_appendD.pdf](https://www.safety.rochester.edu/ih/respiratoryprotection/pdf/respprogram_appendD.pdf). Please follow the instructions within the form and complete. Retain a copy in your department and personal records.

## Chematix Reconciliation:

Have you reconciled your chemical inventory in Chematix this past year? It is a University requirement that all labs reconcile their Chemical Inventories annually. Failure to comply in 2019 will result in a deficiency on your annual inspection, with escalation to the Department Chair or Dean if not rectified. Detailed instructions can be found on our website: [http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix/reconcile\\_inventory.html](http://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix/reconcile_inventory.html). Please contact our Chematix Expert, Abby Davis for any questions.

## Janet Ives:

We recently said a warm goodbye and Happy Retirement to longtime EH&S member, Janet Ives. Having been with the University for 27 years, she was both a pioneer within the Institutional Biosafety Committee, and the driving force for the acquisition and implementation of Chematix for the University. Janet will be greatly missed. We, along with many others in the UofR family, wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

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