

EHS Laboratory Safety Unit Newsletter

March 2022

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MyPath Laboratory Safety Training 2022:

Laboratory Safety Training for 2022 is now available on MyPath. All laboratory Faculty, Staff, Students, and Visiting Scientists are required to complete Laboratory Safety Training annually. There are 4 different courses based upon the materials and hazards used within your laboratory. Direct links for the training within MyPath and the Student/Visitor portal can be found [here](#).

Also, this is a reminder that training records can be found on our EH&S [Training Information Webpage](#). Records can be found for both employees and students for calendar year 2021 and 2022. Records are in Excel format and are updated by EH&S staff once a month. These records are made available to help simplify training verification for laboratories.

Chemical Inventory Update

The LSU inventory team is now inventorying laboratories on the 3rd floor of the S&GG Wing of the Medical School (building 107, near the yellow elevators).

Our team is expected to be on this floor for a few months. This is a good opportunity for all labs in the S&GG Wing of the Medical Center to go through their chemical inventories and dispose of anything that is expired or no longer in use. Our teams work in groups of two or three on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-4 pm. We go through every chemical in the lab and inventory those that are hazardous. Following the initial inventory, the labs are responsible for maintaining their inventories by adding and removing chemicals from Chematix. Annual reconciliation of all chemicals in the lab is required and is verified during regularly scheduled safety inspections. Information regarding chemical inventories can be found here: https://www.safety.rochester.edu/labsafety/chematix/inventory_module.html

Laboratory Safety Unit

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Biosafety Updates

- Please note changes to your IBC LAB form (and please feel free to update now):
 - Section VIII – Waste Handling and Disinfection
 - ‘10% solution of household bleach’ changing to ‘Household bleach: 1 part bleach to 9 parts water/spill’
 - Vesphene IIIse has replaced IIse. If you’re being sent Vesphene IIIse, please update your form.
 - On the second to last page, the Manual of Clinical Microbiology has a new [link](#). This resource can provide biological agent overview, transmission routes, clinical signs, strains resistant to treatment, etc.

Laboratory Incident Review

Recently, a River Campus researcher suffered chemical exposure to the face and eyes while loading a chromatography column in a chemical fume hood. As the researcher went to load the solvent into the column, the column fell through the clamps holding the glassware setup, causing solvent to splash from the reservoir bulb onto the head, down the face, and into the eyes of the researcher. While the researcher was wearing impact-protective safety glasses, they were not wearing a face-shield or using another form of splash-protection. An eyewash station was available nearby, and the researcher was able to flush their eyes directly after exposure. The researcher did not suffer long-term injury from the exposure.

This laboratory incident highlights many of the common components of laboratory accidents, where several factors fail, and cause an injury.

Whenever working in a fume hood, it is imperative that the fume hood sash be at a minimum height and is not raised above the maximum working height (18 inches). If the researcher needed to raise the fume hood sash while they clamped the column into place, they should have then lowered the sash before attempting to load the solvent. By returning the sash to a proper working height, it would have acted as splash protection for the head and face of the researcher, likely reducing the chemical exposure to the arms and torso.

If laboratory staff cannot immediately lower the fume hood sash, or if they try to adjust the setup during a reaction, then additional PPE should be worn to reduce exposure. In this case, a face shield and apron would have offered the extra splash protection, because the safety glasses generally used in laboratories are only intended for **impact** protection.

It is also important to check your glassware setups every time before use. All connections between different pieces of glassware should be secured (using Keck clips or similar equipment), and all clamps should be checked to ensure that the apparatus is secure before every experiment, even if it is a permanent setup.

As always, remember to keep your eyewash stations clear and to flush them regularly, as they are emergency safety equipment.

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New Laser Signage

The Laboratory Safety Unit is now offering standardized, ANSI Z136.1-2014 compliant, laser signage for laboratories with Class 3B and Class 4 lasers. Two general templates are available for Class 3B lasers. Please contact EH&S regarding proper signage for Class 4 lasers.

A reminder that laser signage must be posted:

- For each and every Class 3B or Class 4 laser in the laboratory.
- On all doors immediately leading into the laser laboratory.

The new signage may be requested from the EH&S Laboratory Safety Unit, or is available on the Laboratory Safety Unit [Laser Safety webpage](#).

PPE Highlights:

- Eye Protection:



Safety glasses are used to protect the eyes from impacts, large particles, and foreign objects.



Vapor goggles provide a seal around the eyes to protect them from chemical vapors.



Face shields are used for splash protection from liquids.

It should be normal and expected to change your PPE to suit the task at hand! It is not a standard “uniform”, and all situations will require different levels and types of PPE.

A note on storing PPE:

According to OSHA, PPE must be maintained in a “sanitary and reliable” condition. While PPE should be readily accessible, it should still be stored in a designated area, ideally near the entrance of the lab. PPE such as lab coats and face shields **should not** be hung from the knobs of chemical fume hoods or biological safety cabinets, where they may be subject to chemical splashes, temperature exposures, and other conditions that may compromise their sanitary and functional condition.

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Need Chematix Help?

Environmental Health and Safety's Laboratory Safety Unit will be hosting "office-hours" through Zoom every other Wednesday to answer any and all questions you may have about reconciliation, hazardous waste, and chemical inventories.



Can't wait?
Contact Abby Davis at
abby.davis@Rochester.edu
(585) 208-3014



<https://rochester.zoom.us/j/95822241501>

All labs are legally required to maintain an accurate and up-to-date chemical inventory. This will be checked during annual inspections.

All lab members are required to complete annual lab safety training. For training requirements and to check compliance visit the EH&S webpage at: safety.rochester.edu

LSU Webpage Reminder!

Our webpage offers important program information, guidance, and compliance documentation provide. Highlights include sections for New Principal Investigators, a material request form, and a streamlined Chematix section. Also included is a clear listing of the EH&S Departmental Safety Specialists informing PI's and lab members of who to contact for inspections and general safety questions. A good place to start is our [Homepage](#) or our [Safety Central](#) page.

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