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From: Office of Research Safety <researchsafety@uchicago.edu>
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THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Office of Research and
National Laboratories
Office of Research Safety

SafeLAB Newsletter

(Safety Advisory Forum for Experimental Laboratories)

Volume 1, Issue 1

Oct-Dec 2018

Upcoming Training

Radiation Safety

Bi-weekly on Tuesday from 9-11:30am

Oct. 2, 16, 30

Nov. 13, 27

Dec. 11

Chemical Hygiene Plan (Lab Safety)

Bi-weekly on Tuesday from 12-1pm

Oct. 2, 16 & 30

Nov. 13 & 27

Dec. 11

Comprehensive Biosafety

Bi-weekly on Tuesday from 1-4pm

Oct. 2, 16 & 30

Nov. 13 & 27

Dec. 11

[Sign up here](#)



What is the Office of Research Safety?

Established in 2014, the University of Chicago's Office of Research Safety (ORS) serves as the primary resource for campus-wide research laboratory safety, investigator and student education and training, hazard information and communication. ORS provides subject matter expertise that aims to ensure that research is conducted safely and in full compliance with local, state, and federal regulations and/or satisfies terms required by funding agencies or sponsors.

ORS is composed of experts in Radiation Safety, Laser Safety, Chemical Safety and Biological Safety. Additionally, ORS partners with Environmental

Announcements

UCAIR

The recently launched **University of Chicago Accident and Incident Reporting** system ([UCAIR](#)) provides a user-friendly mechanism for reporting work-related accidents and incidents to [EHS](#) and [ORS](#). For more information about UCAIR, visit the [FAQs page](#).

Please remember to first call 123 (on-campus phone) or 773.702.8181 (off-campus phone) for accidents requiring emergency response to ensure the appropriate emergency response personnel are notified.

Involved individuals, supervisors, affected persons, or witnesses can submit reports. Anonymous reporting is available for events that do not require medical treatment.



Click icon to visit the UCAIR website

Joint Research Safety Initiative (JRSI)

A group of University of Chicago student researchers have recently launched a new initiative as part of an effort to build a stronger culture of safety in university research labs. To read the full story, visit the Office of Research and National Laboratories [website](#) or visit [JRSI](#).



Recently Revised Chemical Hygiene Plan – Laboratory Safety Training

--Training will now include Fire Safety and Evacuation training, recent lab related incidents, and lessons learned.

--Initial in-person CHP training will be provided in weekly training sessions.

Health and Safety ([EHS](#)), UCM EH&S, the Animal Resources Center ([ARC](#)) and the Office of Regulatory Compliance for Laboratory Programs, that administers the Institutional Biosafety Committees ([IBC](#)) and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee ([IACUC](#)), to further streamline the delivery of research safety services.

Please take a moment to visit ORS's [website](#) to learn more about the research safety staff and resources provided by ORS to the campus research community.

Responsible Science and Code of Conduct

While our Safety Teams provide expert guidance and training on the handling of hazardous materials, laboratory personnel are ultimately responsible for the application of knowledge and safe practices gained through consultation with our staff. Therefore, it is essential that individuals maintain a certain level of responsibility while working with hazardous materials at UChicago. [Learn more](#).

Safety Events

ABSA International Biosafety Month

October 2018 is the fifth anniversary of Biosafety Month. This year's theme is 'Promoting a Culture of Biosafety and Responsibility' with social networking hashtag [#getyourcultureon](#). For more information, [visit ABSA](#).

Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, 2018. This year's theme is Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere. [#FirePreventionWeek](#). For more info, visit [FEMA](#) or [NFPA](#).

October 9 is National Nanotechnology Day. This date, pays homage to the nanometer scale, 10^{-9} meters and is intended to raise awareness of nanotechnology, how it is currently used in products that enrich our daily lives, and the challenges and opportunities it holds for the future. For more info, [visit nano.gov](#).

National Chemistry Week is October 21-27, 2018, which includes Mole Day, October 23, from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm. Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's number (6.02×10^{23}), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. For more information, visit the [American Chemical Society](#).

Special Event

ORS Scavenger Hunt: Safety Games

--After initial training has been completed, an online refresher has been created and will launch with the new EHSA training module. [Learn More.](#)

Online Research Safety Education Courses Moving

ORS education and training courses are offered via live training sessions (detailed above) or via web-based, on-line course offerings. Historically, these on-line courses have been accessible to UChicago faculty, staff and students via the Chalk course platform.

Beginning on October 5, 2018, all ORS online courses will be migrated away from the Chalk platform to the Environmental Health and Safety Assistant (EHSA) platform. To take an ORS training course, simply go to <https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training>.

Incoming Student Orientations

ORS has partnered with administrators from different divisions and departments to provide lectures and hands on activities, to the incoming graduate student researchers. In addition to completing the required Chemical Hygiene Plan-Lab Safety and Fire Safety training, the graduate students in the Department of Chemistry and BSD practiced extinguishing a fire, cleaning up a spill and responding to emergencies.

Welcome to the University of Chicago! Please contact us if any specialized training is needed in your lab, department, or division.

Quick Tips

Quick Tip 1: Protective Eyewear

The Fisher Store Room in GCIS offers a variety of protective eyewear to choose from. Be sure to

In an effort to promote research safety during the safety month of October, ORS is sponsoring the inaugural offering of Safety Games. The purpose of this initiative is to reinforce research and life safety best practices at the University of Chicago. The feature is a scavenger hunt contest which is designed to provide multiple-member teams an opportunity to compete for cash value prizes. All divisions researchers are invited to participate in a fun scavenger hunt that challenges your knowledge on how to conduct research safely. \$100 gift card for each person in the team that comes in first place! Additional prizes for runners-up. [Learn more.](#)

Timeline:

Oct 1-9: Open Team Registration

Oct 11-12: Rise of the Phoenix

Oct 17-18: Chain Reaction

Oct 23-24: Behavior Economics

Nov. 1: Award Ceremony



Quick Tip 3: Proper Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) Usage

In general, you shouldn't place large equipment in a BSC as it may disrupt airflow potentially compromising the quality of your sample and allowing the release of biohazardous aerosols into the environment. But sometimes it's necessary. If so, you should have the BSC re-certified with the equipment inside.

wear proper personal protective equipment in the laboratory.



Quick Tip 2: Mercury Thermometers

By exchanging mercury thermometers to alcohol thermometers, we can reduce hazards in the lab. Stop by the ORS office (Cummings Rm. 145) to see if replacing mercury thermometers is right for you. If alcohol thermometers are a viable option, we can exchange the mercury thermometer with an alcohol thermometer at no cost to you the same day.



This lab needed their imaging system inside their BSC. After installation of the imager, they had the BSC certified with the imager inside the BSC. Thanks to the [Dolan Lab](#) in the Dept of Medicine Hematology/Oncology for the photo and for acknowledging that safe science is good science!

Related Links

Office of Research and National Laboratories
Howard Taylor Ricketts Laboratory
Environmental Health & Safety
Animal Resources Center
Marine Biological Laboratory



Learn more about the Office of Research Safety or our partners by visiting our website at <https://researchsafety.uchicago.edu/>

Questions?
Email: researchsafety@uchicago.edu
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