
From: laboratory-safety-request@lists.uchicago.edu on behalf of Office of Research Safety
<researchsafety@uchicago.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 10, 2019 10:28 AM
To: laboratory-safety@lists.uchicago.edu
Subject: [Laboratory-Safety] SAFELab Newsletter



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Office of Research and
National Laboratories
Office of Research Safety

SAFELab Newsletter

(Safety Advisory Forum for Experimental Laboratories)

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2019

Upcoming Training

Radiation Safety

Monthly, on Tuesday from 9-11:30 am

- October 15
- November 12
- December 10

Chemical Hygiene Plan (Lab Safety)

*Weekly on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays
from 12-1 pm*

- October 9, 15, 23, 29
- November 6, 12, 20, 26
- December 4, 10, 18

Comprehensive Biosafety

Bi-weekly on Tuesday from 1-4 pm

- October 1, 15, 29
- November 12, 26
- December 10

Announcements



Career Opportunity in the Office of Research Safety

The Office of Research Safety is currently recruiting for a **Chemical Safety Officer** (CSO). The CSO is responsible for providing input into University-wide chemical safety standards, policies, and procedures as a key member of the research safety community. The CSO, a member of the Office of Research Safety, and reporting to the Associate Vice-President for the Office of Research Safety, works in collaboration with Environmental Health and Safety (Hyde Park campus and the UC Medical Center), the divisional Laboratory Safety Specialists and laboratory research teams.

For more information, or to apply, please click here:

[Chemical Safety Officer](#)

Events

Safety Games Vol. 2: Hunt for the Culture Stone

IATA Shipping Dangerous Goods

Last Tuesdays, 1-4 pm

- October 22
- November 19
- December 17

[Click here to sign up](#)

Please note, you do not need to have an EHSA account to take training, but when trying to access EHSA without an account, you will be rejected.

General Information

New Training Module in EHSA

To access **online** training:

<https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training>

To register for **live** training:

<https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/trainingregistration>

[Contact the EHSA Administrator for technical assistance.](#)

Chemical Hygiene Plan - Policy Update

According to Federal regulation (29CFR 1910.1450), the *Chemical Hygiene Plan* (CHP) must be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. The [Research Safety Policy Council](#) approved the proposed updates to this Plan on March 13, 2019.

Changes include:

- Chapter II: Lab Safety Contact roles and responsibilities.

After the successful inaugural 2018 “Safety Games” scavenger hunt, ORS proudly presents the **2019 Safety Games Vol. 2**.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



-[Safety Games Vol. 2: Hunt for the Culture Stone](#) is a scavenger hunt where teams compete across campus using your mobile device.

-**All researchers, including students, staff, and principal investigators are invited** to join a new adventure that challenges your safety knowledge in the research environment.

-Participants will have from Oct 14th to Oct 28th to complete the challenges and help “restore the research safety universe.”

-**Winning teams win up to \$100 per person.**

Do you have the knowledge and the creativity it takes to take home the prize money and bring honor and acclaim to your team?

Registration is open! [Click here for details about the event and registration.](#)

ABSA International Biosafety Month

October 2019 is the sixth anniversary of Biosafety Month. This year's theme is “**Beyond the Lab: Increasing the Visibility of Biosafety and Biosecurity**” with social networking hashtag **#biosafety_biosecuritymonth**. For more information, visit [ABSA](#).

Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12, 2019. This year's theme is Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere. **#FirePreventionWeek**. For more info, visit [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](http://visit.nano.gov).

National Chemistry Week is October 20-26, 2019, which includes Mole Day, October 23, from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm. Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's number (6.02 x 10²³), which is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the [Period Table of](#)

- Chapter VI: Requirements for emergency eyewash monthly flushes.
- CHP training requirement frequency and who this now applies to.

For a complete description, [click here](#).

Medical Payments for UChicago Student Injuries Occurring in Laboratories at UChicago

What is covered?

Out-of-pocket costs incurred for emergency medical care for accidents or injuries sustained during assigned responsibilities while in laboratories or other research activity, regardless of fault.

Who is covered?

UChicago students injured during assigned responsibilities in laboratories or other research activity. Includes enrolled UChicago graduate and undergraduate degree students.

The program is set up for covering emergency care at UCMC and would not apply to non-degree visiting students or injuries that occur in field research. In these instances, students should utilize their health insurance. Additionally, students who are injured abroad can call International SOS for assistance.

If a student receives bills for related treatment, they should contact the Office of Risk Management at risk@uchicago.edu.

Any additional questions or concerns should be directed to the [Office of Risk Management](#).

[Chemical Elements](#), celebrating internationally and inspiring this year's National Chemistry Week theme as **Marvelous Metals**. For more information, visit the [American Chemical Society](#).



Quick Tips

Quick Tip 1: Oxidizers vs. Flammables

Oxidizers & Flammables – can you tell the difference?



Flammables, like the xylene and 2-methylbutane / isopentane, are liquids that burn easily. They should be kept in a flammables cabinet.



Oxidizers, like the hydrogen peroxide in the picture, do not burn, but promote combustion. Some strong oxidizers can even ignite flammable liquids on contact. Oxidizers should never be stored in flammable cabinets or near flammables.

Make sure to keep incompatible chemicals safely separated.

Submit a waste disposal request using EHS Assistant at



The ORS is currently recruiting to fill the vacant Chemical Safety Officer positions. For more information, or to apply, please visit the job postings below:

[Chemical Safety Officer](#)

Which Safety Unit Do I Call?

Have a question or need help but are unsure who to contact? Visit the new "Who Does What?" page on the [Environmental Health and Safety's website](#) where you will find a comprehensive list of activities, definitions and who to contact.

There is a search function that will help make navigation easier. If you have any questions, please contact us at researchsafety@uchicago.edu or call 773-834-2707.

For emergencies, always contact campus police at 123 (campus phone), or 773-702-8181.

UCAIR

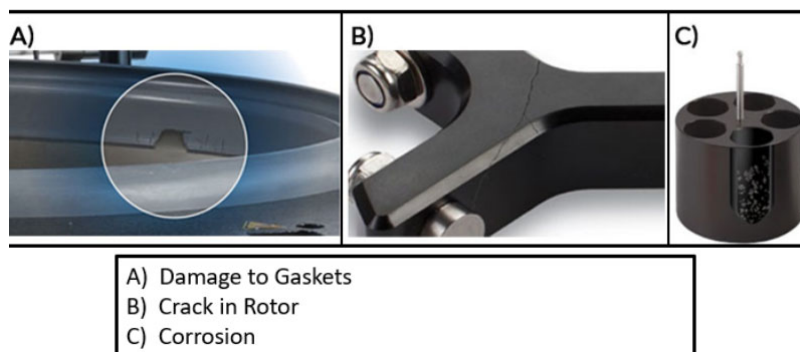
The **University of Chicago Accident and Incident Reporting** system (UCAIR) provides a user-friendly mechanism for reporting work-related accidents and incidents to [EHS](#) and [ORS](#). For more information about UCAIR, visit the [FAQs page](#). We also encourage the reporting of unsafe conditions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

Please remember to first call 123 (on-campus

<http://ehsa.uchicago.edu> to have it removed. For especially hazardous samples or if you have any questions, please [reach out to us](#).

Quick Tip 2: Centrifuge Safety

In laboratory research, the centrifuge is a common tool used that separates substances by force spinning at high speeds. If used improperly, it can present various hazards. When using, remember to follow a maintenance schedule, prepare for use with proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and checking component parts, and refer to the lab's associated standard operating procedure.



OSHA Tips

Quick Tip 3: Expired Hazardous Chemicals

Often, there are surprises during inspections such as a forgotten chemical container lurking in the back of a storage cabinet.

This lab had a container of [dimethyl sulfate](#), heavily contaminated, stored in an old chemical cabinet. Dimethyl sulfate is a highly toxic chemical via inhalation and skin absorption, as well as a carcinogen.

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)

The JRSI is a community of students, post-docs and research assistants whose focus is to promote a culture of safety for the Chemistry Department and Institute for Molecular Engineering (IME).

For more information, [visit JRSI's website](#).



Picric acid is not just another organic acid – it is an explosive closely related to TNT. Picric acid is not explosive when handled wet, although it is still poisonous. If allowed to dry, picric acid acts very similar to TNT. It also has the tendency to form extremely sensitive salts with metals.



It is important to know what chemicals are in your lab and understand their hazard. Avoid the surprise discovery of hazardous chemicals in your lab by updating your chemical inventory regularly, and properly disposing of old, unused chemicals as hazardous waste. Contact us at researchsafety@uchicago.edu if you need assistance.



Does your department have any information to share in our newsletter? Would you like to see something specific?

[Click here to contact the ORS Administrator](#)



Learn more about the Office of Research Safety or our partners by [visiting our website.](#)



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Questions?

[Email us](#)

Call: 773-834-2707

SAFELab Quarterly Newsletter



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