
From: laboratory-safety-request@lists.uchicago.edu on behalf of Office of Research Safety
<researchsafety@uchicago.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2020 2:16 PM
To: laboratory-safety@lists.uchicago.edu
Subject: [Laboratory-Safety] SAFELab Quarterly 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 2

January 2020

Upcoming Training

The Office of Research Safety would like to wish everyone at UChicago a safe and Happy New Year!

Radiation Safety

Monthly, on Tuesday from 9-11:30 am

- January 14
- February 11
- March 10

Chemical Hygiene Plan (Lab Safety)

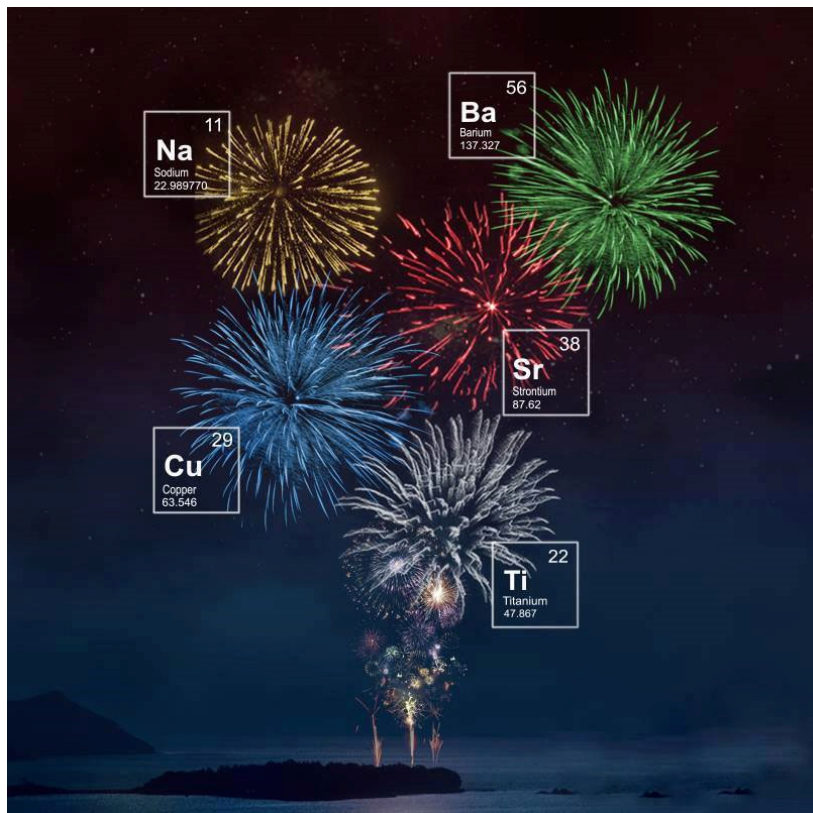
Weekly on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12-1 pm

- January 7, 15, 21, 29
- February 4, 12, 18, 26
- March 3, 11, 17, 25, 31

Comprehensive Biosafety

Bi-weekly on Tuesday from 1-4 pm

- January 7, 21
- February 4, 18
- March 3, 17, 31



IATA Shipping Dangerous Goods

Last Tuesdays, 1-4 pm

- January 14
- February 25
- March 24

[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

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.](#)

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

Announcements



Career Opportunity in the Office of Research Safety

The Office of Research Safety is currently recruiting for a **Biological Safety Officer** (BSO). The BSO is responsible for providing input into University-wide biological safety standards, policies, and procedures as a key member of the research safety community. The BSO, 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, please [email our Department Administrator](#).

Chemical Hygiene Plan - Annual Refresher Now Required

This is a reminder that beginning January 1, 2020, annual Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) training will be required for all researchers. The new annual CHP- Lab Safety online refresher (previously required every three years) now includes a quick review of the CHP, incorporates the annual EH&S Fire Safety and Evacuation training, and will focus on recent laboratory incidents and lessons learned from these incidents. This training will be updated annually by ORS based on incidents and lessons learned. Researchers are directed to the new CHP- Lab Safety online refresher when their Fire Safety and Evacuation training has expired.

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

Radiation Safety presents: Laser Faire (Laser Safety blog)

The Radiation Safety Office here at the University of Chicago also hosts the Laser Safety Program. Starting in 2020, we hope to bring you short little laser safety blurbs in each ORS newsletter

Why was the patient excited to have laser eye surgery on January 1st?

They were thrilled to have 20/20 vision!

Laser Safety news:

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) regulates laser systems in accordance with the Illinois Laser System Act of 1997 to protect

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](#).

the public from the harmful effects of laser radiation. The University of Chicago Laser Safety Program therefore must adhere to applicable regulations to remain in compliance. One of the requirements is the registration of lasers. Any Class 3B or Class 4 laser product, (we will go into greater depth of the classifications of lasers in a later article), must be registered with the University Laser Safety Officer. Prior to the operation of Class 3B or Class 4 laser products, your lab needs to complete and submit a registration form, (found [here](#)).

All completed forms may be emailed to: lasersafety@lists.uchicago.edu. Registration is not required for lasers emitting lower quantities of laser radiation such as Class 2 and Class 3R lasers. Once submitted, we will work with your lab to get your experiments up and running as quickly and safely as possible!

If you ever have questions about the lasers in your lab, or laser safety in general, you can reach out to us at lasersafety@lists.uchicago.edu.



The ORS is currently recruiting
for a **Biological Safety Officer**.
To apply, [click here](#).

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.

Events

Safety Games Vol. 2: Hunt for the Culture Stone



Building on the award-winning "[2018 Safety Games](#)", the university-wide safety-oriented scavenger hunt, ORS wrapped up another successful year with "[Safety Games Vol II](#)". This event highlighted the crucial roles of safety in academic research. Thanks to all participants of this event. We could not have done it without you!

The theme this year was a parody of the Avenger movie series. Presenting the [Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management \(CSHEMA\) marketing award](#) trophy as the "Safety Crystal", participants had two weeks to complete 6 groups of challenges, each focusing on a different research hazard. By completing the challenges and collecting all 6 virtual stones- fire safety and evacuation stone, chemical safety stone, biological safety stone, radiation safety stone, laser safety stone, and culture of safety stone- researchers restore the "Safety Crystal" which protects the "Safety Universe".

Fifteen teams with a total of 55 researchers registered to participate in this event. The photos and videos provided an invaluable feedback on the effectiveness of safety training provided by ORS and EHS. Furthermore, the incredible creativity of the UChicago scientists was on full display which also

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 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](#).



gave ORS and EHS a glimpse of the safety culture in individual laboratories. Congratulations to the top teams. [Video montages](#) of their challenge submissions was presented during the award ceremony and available below:

[1st place: NQO1](#)

[2nd place: Lady Mighty-chondria](#)

[3rd place: Last but Notch Least](#)

Quick Tips

Quick Tip 1: Chemical Storage

The Anderson lab, from the Chemistry department, stores their toxic and/or reactive dry chemicals in separate plastic bins (see photo). This helps to contain spills and keeps incompatible chemicals separated. This came in handy when a container of highly toxic beryllium was leaking. Thankfully, the bin had completely contained the spill and made cleanup much easier. Another good practice by the Anderson lab was that all of their chemicals were inventoried by bin number, providing easy access to safety data sheets. Therefore, ORS staff were able to rapidly determine safe methods for spill cleanup. After the risk assessment, the waterproof plastic bin easily decontaminated, allowing the Anderson Lab to return to their research quickly.

Using secondary containment bins is an excellent method to improve safety in all chemical storage. [Contact the Office of Research Safety](#) if you would like assistance with safe chemical storage.





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](#).

Related Links

[Office of Research and National Laboratories](#)

[Howard Taylor Ricketts Laboratory](#)

[Environmental Health & Safety](#)

Quick Tip 2: Near-miss Injury – Improper Packaging of Chemical Waste

Recently, a 4-liter glass bottle containing waste chemicals exploded in the building designated as the central accumulation area for campus and medical center hazardous wastes. A Tradebe employee placed the bottle in a storage room and upon exiting heard an explosion and breaking glass. Had the employee remained in the room a few seconds longer he would have been exposed to glass shrapnel and suffered chemical burns.

The bottle which exploded was collected from the waste pickups completed by Tradebe earlier that morning. Upon initial investigation, Tradebe determined the contents of the bottle were acidic. However, we could not confirm the contents or the origin of the bottle since the explosion destroyed the label on the bottle.

Additionally, we were unable to use a process of elimination because numerous labs had not properly labelled their waste containers or they had set waste out for collection but failed to submit a detailed waste pick-up request in the EHSA system.

Environmental Health and Safety determined the explosion was likely due to over-pressurization in the bottle caused by:

- Mixing incompatible waste chemicals; and/or
- Improper venting prior to capping the bottle.

To prevent similar events from occurring, please adhere to these chemical waste handling procedures:

- Affix labels onto chemical waste containers which marks the container as "Waste" and identifies the following information: location where waste was generated, chemical contents/constituents of the waste container, and the hazards associated with contents;
- Confirm the contents of the waste container are compatible with the waste chemical being added;
- Use the EHSA system to provide a detailed list of chemicals present in the waste bottle. Do not use general terms (e.g., organic waste). Use the template tool for common/routine waste streams;
- Do not add waste chemicals into a container which is not labeled; and
- Use pressure-relief caps for waste chemicals or waste chemical mixtures which may build-up pressure inside the bottle.

Examples and templates of waste labels can be found on the web policy page for Hazardous Waste Disposal Procedures.

Please contact Environmental Health and Safety or your divisional Lab Safety Specialist if you have any further questions about chemical waste labeling or handling:

Medical Center Environmental Health & Safety

Animal Resources Center

Institutional Care & Animal Use Committee

Institutional Biosafety Committee

Marine Biological Laboratory

Duke Infectious Disease Response Training

Joint Research Safety Initiative

-Email: safety@uchicago.edu; or

-Phone: 773.702.9999



Questions?

[Email us!](#)

Call: 773-834-2707



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SAFELab Quarterly

Newsletter



Quick Tip 3: Caps On/Caps Off

The photo below represents a chemical waste container with a funnel in the mouth. While this is a great way to prevent spills while adding waste to a container, Federal regulations prohibit leaving waste containers uncapped. For volatile wastes like ethanol, this is allowing the vapors out of the waste containers into the air – either creating a hazard for people working in the room, or sending the vapors up the fume hood to become air pollution.

The simple solution is to place the cap back on, closing the waste container and keeping the vapors contained. There are funnels designed to seal closed when you are not using the container. Also, Research Safety can provide you with detailed waste labels that let you clearly state what is stored in the waste container.



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