SAFELab Newsletter
(Safety Advisory Forum for Experimental Laboratories)

Volume 1, Issue 3               April 2019

Upcoming Training

Radiation Safety

Monthly, on Tuesday from 9-11:30 am
April 16
May 14
June 11

Chemical Hygiene Plan (Lab Safety)

Weekly on alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12-1 pm
April 2, 10, 16, 24, 30
May 8, 14, 22, 28
June 5, 11, 19, 25

Comprehensive Biosafety

Bi-weekly on Tuesday from 1-4 pm
April 2, 16, 30
May 14, 28
June 11, 25

Announcements

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

For a complete description, click here.

New Policy: Institutional Roles and Responsibilities for Safety Culture

IATA Shipping Dangerous Goods

**Last Tuesdays, 1-4 pm**

April 30
May 28
June 25

[Click here to sign up](https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training)

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. To browse or register for training, visit these links:

- [https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training](https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training)
- [https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/trainingregistration](https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/trainingregistration)

Contact the EHSA Administrator for technical assistance.

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Learn more about the Office of Research Safety or our partners by visiting our website.

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**General Information**

"Responsibility for safety, including the laboratory safety program, resides at all levels within the University. Within this framework, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and visitors have responsibilities for complying, implementing, communicating and/or ensuring adherence to health, safety, and environmental regulations, principles, and practices. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and the Office of Research Safety (ORS) provide training, technical expertise, consulting assistance, tools and services to ensure compliance with all legal requirements."

To view the full policy that defines the roles and responsibilities of each position, [click here](https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training).

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**New Course: Shipping Dangerous Goods (IATA)**

ORS is now offering training for Shipping Dangerous Goods (IATA). It is a requirement for anyone who ships biological material or chemicals outside of the University. If you have not attended the course, then you are not authorized to ship any of the noted material until after completing this training. The course is offered monthly, in-person, is hands on and required every two years.

To sign up, visit [registration on EHSA](https://ehsa.uchicago.edu/training).

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**Educational Assignments and Volunteers in the Lab**

If you plan to have someone from outside the University volunteer to temporarily work in your lab (e.g., a student from an external organization seeking an educational experience, or someone who wants experience), they must first be approved by Employee Labor Relations, Risk Management, and the Office of Research Safety. This policy is mandated for safety and University liability concerns.

To begin the process:

If you are **not** in BSD and:
- The person is 17 years or younger submit this Educational Assignment Proposal Minor to elrelations@uchicago.edu
- The person is 18 years or older, submit this Educational Assignment Proposal Non-Minor to elrelations@uchicago.edu

If you are **in** BSD, do as instructed above, but also submit this [BSD Volunteer and Educational Assignment Request](mailto:volunteers@bsd.uchicago.edu)

Upon receipt of the forms, the designated Human Resources office will
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.

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.

contact the ORS Administrator. A Research Safety Officer will contact the individual and the supervisor to schedule the applicable safety training. This must be completed prior to the start of work in the lab. Please feel free to contact the ORS Administrator with any questions.

Click here for the ORS Training and Minors in the Lab policies

Special Projects

June is National Safety Month

Every June, all of UChicago's safety related departments celebrate National Safety Month to help reduce leading causes of injury and death at work, on the road and in our homes and communities. Visit the National Safety Council for more information.

Meet and greet with the Office of Research Safety, Environmental Health and Safety, Risk Management, Graham School, Midwest Office Interiors and the UChicago Police Department. Win items such as hats, lunch coolers, flashlights, and stainless steel water bottles. Visit our tents at one of these scheduled events:

-6/19/19 Main Quad
-6/26/19 Crerar Library Quad

Pictured above are Chemical Safety Officer, Habib Khan, and Biosafety Officer, Nick Noriea at a previous Safety Month demo. They are demonstrating how to safely make delicious ice cream from milk, cream, sugar, vanilla and liquid nitrogen!
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).

Their first annual Peer Lab Walkthrough Competition will be conducted the week of April 8th. Twelve labs from across Chemistry and IME will be competing for a grand prize of $500 and the esteem that comes with the illustrious Golden Goggles award. The winners of the competition will be announced at the awards ceremony on April 19th in ERC 161. For more information about the competition, visit JRSI's website.

Quick Tip 1: Hazardous Waste

This is from a recent ORS lab inspection. Take a close look at this bottle:

Since peroxide formation takes time, under normal circumstances, these chemicals can be stored and handled safely. Please see the Chemical Hygiene Plan for a list of chemicals known to form peroxides and additional information on the safe handling, storage, and disposal of these chemicals.

Do you have chemicals that are almost old enough to vote or otherwise expired? Submit a waste disposal request using EHS Assistant at http://ehsa.uchicago.edu to have it removed. For especially hazardous samples or if you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Office of Research Safety
Email: researchsafety@uchicago.edu
Phone: 773-837-2707

Environmental Health and Safety
Email: safety@uchicago.edu
Phone: 773-702-9999
Quick Tip 2: Lock it up!

Chances are that your lab has not won the Mega-Millions Jackpot recently either. Every bit of funding is important including the instrumentation, equipment, and materials in your lab. It is imperative to remain vigilant about what is going on in your lab to protect the resources that your research depends on. This especially holds true when your lab works with radioactive materials.

Radioactive Materials, commonly referred to as RAM, are controlled under stringent regulations and should be kept locked up and secured when not in use. When you remove the RAM from storage to use it, keep an eye on it and make sure it stays where it belongs. Click here to view the Radiation Safety Manual

What about that contaminated waste your experiment just produced? You guessed it, that's also RAM! At the end of the day, ensure the materials are properly stored and your lab spaces are locked up. Just like you don’t want anyone walking away with any personal or lab belongings, you don’t want your RAM to go walking off. Lock it Up!