



The Lab Rat NEWS

March 2015

Microscope Safety

For both inexperienced and experienced users, microscopes should always be handled with care. Proper microscope use will help prevent damage to the equipment and prevent laboratory accidents such as breaking slides.

- Clean the microscope after each use.
 - ◊ Clean smudged lenses with lens paper. Avoid applying pressure with a cloth as the lenses are very fragile.
 - ◊ Wipe the stage (the platform that holds the slides) down thoroughly and disinfect the eyepiece with an alcohol-based wipe.
- Handle glass slides carefully. If a slide breaks, ensure that the contents are properly disposed and report the incident in PeopleSoft if an injury occurs.
- Turn off the light source when the microscope is not in use. This will improve lamp longevity and save energy.
- Be aware if your microscope has a mercury lamp. A broken mercury lamp may release toxic mercury vapors. You can dispose of any unwanted mercury-containing devices by submitting a pick-up request to chemwaste@emory.edu
- When carrying the microscope, always use two hands with one hand supporting the base and the other hand holding the arm.
- Properly store the microscope by lowering the nosepiece, turning off the light source, and placing the objective lenses on the lowest setting. Cover with a dust jacket.
- Ensure your microscope is scheduled for preventative maintenance and keep the area around the microscope clean. For more information, consult the manufacturer's manual for your equipment.



Training

Most of EHSO's Trainings are available online:

ehso.emory.edu.

Rad Safety Training

2nd Tuesdays at
10:00am (monthly).

Lab Safety Training

3rd Thursdays at
10:00am (monthly).

Chemical/ Radioactive Waste

[Full Schedule here...](#)

All **chemical** waste pick up should be requested by emailing

chemwaste@emory.edu.

All **radioactive** waste pick up should be requested via EHS Assist pick-up.

Chemical waste disposal inventory form and/or **radioactive** waste inventory form should accompany all waste containers at the time of pick-up.

PPE

Choice to be based on potential exposures involved:

Eye: Glasses, goggles & face shields.

Gloves: Appropriate for the type of procedure.

Clothing: Gowns, lab coats, aprons, coveralls.

Respirators: Appropriate for the type of procedure.

Lessons Learned: Chemical Burns

Lab coats protect your skin and clothes from laboratory contamination such as splashes and spills. The lab coat can be easily removed and reduce your exposure to laboratory contamination.

Additionally, when wearing synthetic fabrics (polyester, nylon, acrylic, etc.), the fabric can ignite after a chemical splash, causing the material to melt and cling onto your skin. This can cause potentially fatal burns. The severity of a chemical burn can be reduced by wearing cotton materials such as your lab coat.

The link below shows a video where a researcher describes her experience following a severe chemical burn when working with trifluoroacetic acid. She was not wearing her lab coat and required a skin graft as a result.

Always remember to wear your lab coat. <http://cenblog.org/the-safety-zone/2015/02/lesson-learned-video-acid-burn/>

If you have a splash or spill, immediately remove the contaminated clothing, go to the nearest sink or safety shower, and flush the site with copious amounts of water.

For minor splashes, flush the area with tepid water for 15 minutes and gently wash the affected area. Scrubbing will aggravate the skin.

For major accidents, go to nearest safety shower and pull the cord. Contact EHSO for information about clean-up after using the shower. As always, report any incidents through PeopleSoft.

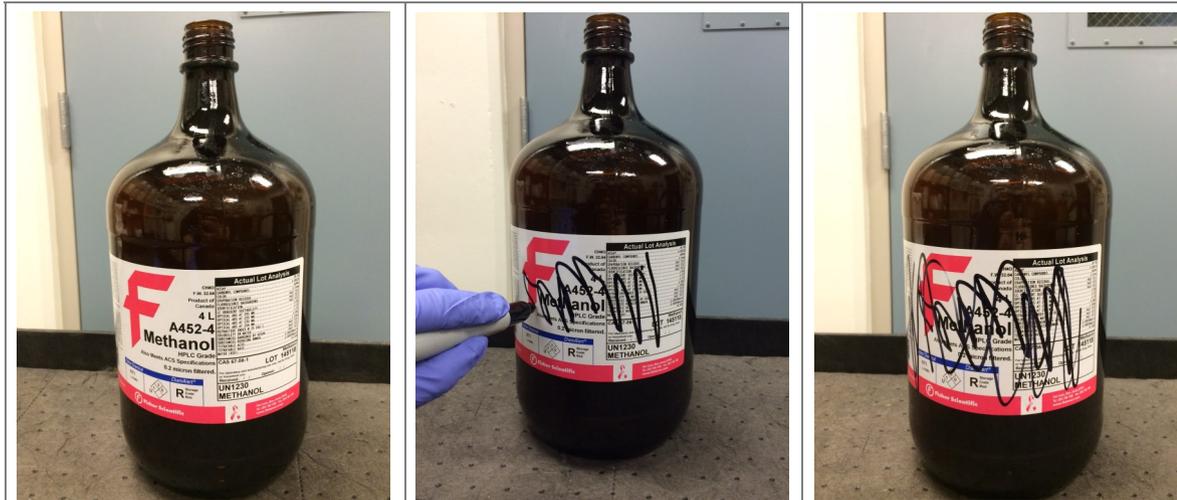


**LAB COAT
REQUIRED**

Defacing Chemical Labels

Recyclables are being rejected from Emory University's recycling vendor when chemical bottles are not properly defaced. One undefaced label will send the **entire batch** of recyclables to the landfill. To properly deface labels for non P-listed chemicals, see the steps below.

All **P-listed** chemicals must be disposed of through EHSO.



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Remove the cap and triple rinse the empty container. | 2. Take a pen or a sharpie and scribble over the label. | 3. Ensure that there is adequate coverage and dispose of bottle in appropriate recycling container (plastic, glass, or amber). |
|---|---|--|

Radioactive materials must be defaced as well prior to disposal. Ensure to deface the radioactive pictogram and the label on both the vial and pig prior to disposing in the appropriate waste container. Radioactive material should not be disposed of down the drain. Submit a waste pick-up request through EHS Assist. The waste container does not have to be full. Please contact your Research Safety Building Liaison if you have any questions.

Training Reminders

Course Name	Course Code	Training Frequency
Research Laboratory Safety	240150	Annually
Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) for Research	240100	Annually
Biosafety	240120	Every 3 years

Go to <http://www.ehso.emory.edu/training/courses.html> to learn more about the courses EHSO offers.

Please Read—

Signature indicates: I have read and I understand the information in this issue of Lab Rat Newsletter. Use an additional sheet of paper for more signatures, if needed and attach to this document.

- This newsletter is a tool to help fulfill a legal requirement for ongoing safety training.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that individuals in their area have read and understood the information that applies to their area.
- The signed newsletter should be placed into the PI's EHSO Lab Safety Binder.

Signature Here

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Eye Wash Testing

Eyewash Stations should be tested and documented once a month by lab personnel

Certifications

Certifications required annually:
Biosafety Cabinets,
Geiger Meters and
Chemical Fume Hoods.

Fire Extinguishers

Visual fire extinguisher inspections conducted monthly:

- A. Is it present and mounted in its proper location?
- B. Is it readily accessible?
- C. Initial and date attached tag.

If it appears to need servicing contact the Maintenance HELP line at 7-7463

Tell us how we are doing!

The newsletter has a new home. Every individual article is now hosted [online!](#)

Got something to share? [Tell us!](#) Post comments, related articles/links, and safety concerns.

Feel free to also send your comments to biosafe@emory.edu.

We look forward to reading your ideas and comments!

Building Liaisons

[Click here](#) to find your building's Radiation and Research liaisons.