



The Lab Rat NEWS

May 2013

How to Use a Geiger Counter

If your lab is authorized to use radioactive Materials, you are required to conduct routine contamination surveys. Contamination Surveys are required to be performed weekly after each radioactive material use. We encourage researchers to perform contamination Surveys after each individual experiment. Your surveys should include the Geiger meter survey and wipe tests. The lab areas that must be scanned include the bench top or work surface, floor near the work area, centrifuges, waste containers, waste storage areas, and isotope storage locations. The following provides information on how to use the Geiger Counter.

Note H3 and C14 will not register on Geiger Meter.

CONDUCT A PRE-USE CHECK

- Check the calibration sticker to confirm that Geiger Counter has been calibrated within last 12 months.
- Conduct battery test.

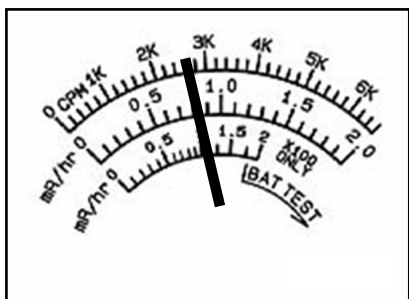
Change multiplier to Batter Test (BAT) position and confirm that needle is over BAT test region on Geiger Meter scale.

SCAN FOR RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION

- Switch Audio to ON position.
- Switch Fast/Slow to F position.
- Turn multiplier from OFF position to one of the multiplier options, starting at the lowest multiplier position (x0.1) and increasing as necessary.
- Slowly scan 1" above the surface moving 2-3" per second.
- Use audio beeping noise to guide you to areas that have higher levels of contamination
 - Rapid beeping indicates higher levels of radioactive contamination.



NOTE: Area is contaminated if reading greater than 2 mR/hr. Decontaminate the area and repeat survey of area.



- Use middle mR/hr scale for all multipliers except x100.
- Multiply the reading on the center scale by the multiplier dial. For instance, on the x10 multiplier, the reading is $0.8 \times 10 = 8.0$ mR/hr.
- Use bottom mR/hr scale for x100 multiplier.

Proper Chemical Container Disposal

Once you have used the remaining volume of a chemical for your experiment, and are ready to discard or recycle the container remember to do the following:

- *Remove the cap*
- *Triple rinse the container with water*
- *Deface the label*

Training

Most of EHSO's Trainings are available online. www.ehso.emory.edu for registration information.

Radiation Safety Training
2nd Tuesdays at 10:00 am
Laboratory Safety Training
3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am

Chemical/Radioactive Waste Pick-up Schedule

[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

NOTE: Rinsates can be washed down the sink drain with plenty water
 Deface the label (warnings, hazard symbols, and chemical name)

There are two exceptions: **“P-listed chemicals and pesticides”** which are regulated through the USEPA. Rinsing and recycling of these containers is prohibited. All container (s) that held P-listed chemicals and pesticides (except for disinfectants) must be disposed of through EHSO. For more information, please access the Guidelines for Chemical Waste Management in Laboratories Document at the following link: <http://www.ehso.emory.edu/content-guidelines/GuidelinesforChemicalWasteDisposal.pdf>

EHSO Lab Validations Coming Soon!

EHSO will start conducting annual lab validations beginning in June 2013. EHSO will inspect at least one lab for each PI. After the inspection, labs will receive a report with any findings within 48 hours. Building liaisons will follow up with each lab 2 weeks after the validation to ensure that all items found during the inspection have been corrected.

After all inspections have been completed on campus, EHSO will send score cards to department chairs and individuals PIs to show how well they performed on all three inspections: lab self-inspection, EHSO validation, and EHSO follow-up inspection.

Reminder: In order to guarantee that your lab is prepared for the upcoming validations, please verify that you’ve completed your 2013 self-inspection and submitted your corrective action plan (CAP) to linspec@emory.edu.

Inspection and CAP forms are available here: <http://www.ehso.emory.edu/programs/research/research-forms.cfm>

Checklist for Volunteers and Minors Participating in Research Activities

This is just a quick reminder to the labs that non-Emory lab personnel must register with EHSO. Lab personnel that are not Emory employees must receive EHSO and/or IACUC approval prior to participating in research. Here is a checklist of items that must be submitted before the individual will be approved to participate in research activities.



Click [here](#) to view checklist.

Yerkes volunteers contact the safety office for site specific requirements.

Notice

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 PIs EHSO Lab Safety Binder.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Eye Wash Testing

Eyewash Stations should be tested once a month by lab personnel

Certifications

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

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 at blogs.emory.edu/labratnews/

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.