



The Lab Rat NEWSLETTER

Training

Training information found at:
ehso.emory.edu/training

Chemical Waste

Email chemwaste@emory.edu for chemical waste pick-ups or requests.

Include a [chemical waste disposal form](#) with all waste.

Radioactive Waste

Request radioactive waste pick-ups through EHS Assist.

Include a [radioactive waste disposal form](#) with all waste.

PPE

Choose from the following based on the 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.

Eye Wash Testing

Lab personnel should test and document eye wash stations once per month.

Certifications

The following require annual certification:

- Biosafety Cabinets
- Geiger Meters
- Chemical Fume Hoods

Do You Know How to Use a Fire Extinguisher?

A BC-rated, multipurpose, dry powder extinguishers are provided to the labs in the event that a small fire develops. A small fire can be defined as “trash can-sized” or an incipient stage fire.

Extinguishers are usually **red** in color and have either a long narrow hose or no hose (just a short nozzle). There are also some D extinguishers used for metal fires.

Is a fire extinguisher mounted in the lab?

OSHA requires that fire extinguishers receive two types of inspections to ensure that they work when activated:

- Monthly visual inspection
- Annual certification inspection

Monthly visual inspections of the fire extinguishers inside the labs are the responsibility of the individuals in the work area. The annual inspection is conducted by an Emory-approved contractor.

Why a monthly inspection?

The monthly inspection helps to ensure the work place is safe in two ways:

- Workers become familiar with the location of the nearest extinguisher.
- It ensures that they are in good condition and work when necessary.

How do I conduct a monthly inspection?

- **Location**– Is the fire extinguisher mounted on the wall? Is the fire extinguisher unobstructed?
- **Condition**– Is the pin in place and is the gauge needle in the **green**?
- If answers are “yes,” **initial and date the back** of the inspection card following each check.
- If answers are “no,” **contact Campus Services** at 404-727-7378 for a replacement.

Are evacuation routes posted & current/correct?

Building evacuation routes are posted near the stairwells and elevators of each research building. If you do not notice evacuation routes posted in your building, contact Fire Life Safety at 404-727-7378.

What if there is a fire in my lab?

If a fire is in the beginning stages, then you may be able to put it out using a nearby fire extinguisher. Once you locate the fire extinguisher, position yourself several feet away from the fire and keep your back towards the nearest exit. Have a clear route of escape in case the fire starts to spread. When you are ready to discharge the fire extinguisher, remember the **P.A.S.S.** principle! After discharging the fire extinguisher, notify Campus Services to receive a replacement.

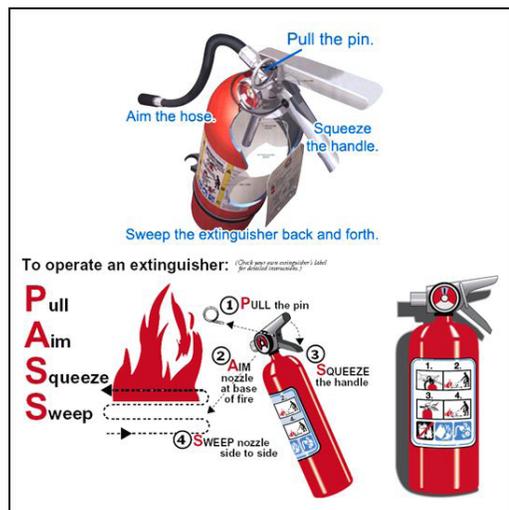
What if I Discover a Fire?

Remove all persons in immediate danger to safety.

Activate manual pull station AND call 911.

Close doors and fire shutters to prevent the spread of smoke and fire

Extinguish the fire (if you are able).



What Do I Do if the Fire Begins to Spread?

If you were unsuccessful at extinguishing the fire, **evacuate the area immediately!**

Alert nearby laboratories and office personnel that a fire is in progress by pulling the nearest fire alarm. If you are located above the ground floor, locate the nearest stairwell to descend to the

ground floor. Before opening the door, feel the handle and door with the back of your hand for heat. If the door is hot, do not open it. Take an alternate route to evacuate the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to your department's designated meeting location and call 911.



SAFE Lab Spill Cleanup
 EHSO's **Spill Response Team** is on-call, 24/7, to assist with safe spill cleanup and disposal. Call the new, dedicated **404-727-2888** right away for all mercury spills and spills you believe may cause harm or injury. See the *Emory Just-in-Time Guide* for additional spill information.

Are You Aware of DURC?

The United States Government (USG) issued in March 2012 the Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) Policy, and subsequently, the Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC. The USG defines DURC as:

...life sciences research that, based on current understanding, can be reasonably anticipated to provide knowledge, information, products, or technology that could be directly misapplied to pose a significant threat with broad potential consequences to public health and safety, plants,

animals, the environment, material, or national security.

In particular, the Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences DURC "establishes institutional review procedures and oversight requirements that parallel those undertaken by federal funding agencies." This policy applies to all Institutions (and their investigators) that receive Federal funding for life science research (funded by any source) involving the 15 agents and toxins and the seven types of experiments listed in the policy.

Building Liasons

Radiation and Research liasons can be found at the following:

ehso.emory.edu/about/

Feedback

Send comments to:

biosafe@emory.edu

We look forward to reading your ideas and comments!

• Updates to Emory • IBC & RHSC SOPs and • Charter Documents

• EHSO has revised the Emory University Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and Research Health & Safety Committee (RHSC) at:
 • ehso.emory.edu/manuals

• Working Safely in Your • Biosafety Cabinet

• We have posted on our website a 15-min instructional video from Esco Biotech aimed to show standard operating procedures for working in Class II Biosafety Cabinets from start to shut down. EHSO encourages you to become familiar with the type of BSC in your laboratory by reviewing product specifications and recommended practices. An instructional poster is also available for download.

• Click [here](#) to download the poster.

About This Newsletter

- 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

Your signature indicates that you have read and 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.*

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