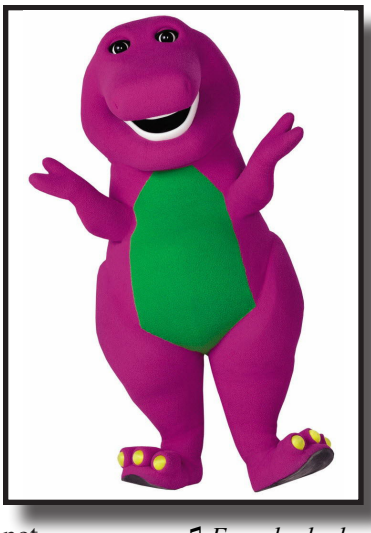
The Lab Rat NEWS
September 2015

EMORY UNIVERSITY
Environmental Health and Safety Office
Research Administration

Clean Up, Clean Up

Recently, an employee from building residential services was injured after entering a lab space to perform routine cleaning after hours. The employee received a chemical burn after a corrosives bottle on the benchtop caught onto her sleeve and spilled acid on her arm. The container was left near the edge of the benchtop instead of being placed in the corrosives cabinet.



♫ *Everybody do your share* ♫

Please remember to properly store and secure your chemicals and equipment after use. The following tips will help ensure that your space is safe for all authorized personnel who enter the space:

- Ensure that all gas cylinders are secured with a bracket, and tagged as "full" and/or "empty" when not in use.
- Ensure that liquid corrosives are stored in the corrosive cabinet and have secondary containers such as Nalgene or Polypropylene tubs.
- Are your chemicals compatible? View our chemical incompatibility poster and storage legend for more guidance.
  - » Link to **chemical incompatibility poster**: http://ow.ly/RZp0F
  - » Link to **storage legend**: http://ow.ly/RZpcn
- Discard pipette tips and serological pipettes after use in the sharps container instead laying the pipettor on the benchtop with the tip sticking out.
- Ensure that shelves, cabinets, and counter tops are stable and not overloaded, and containers are placed on shelves in a safe manner. Image 1 is an example of an unsafe environment.

Image 1. An example of an unsafe lab environment.

- Secure and store hazardous chemicals by compatible groups on bench tops, shelves or cabinets. If the containers are too large to fit safely on shelves, store them on the floor in secondary containers and in such a way that they do not pose a trip hazard. Always follow your lab's written procedures for proper handling of hazardous chemicals.
- Secure DEA-regulated items in a locked container.
- Secure radioactive materials (RAM) by locking the refrigerator/freezer, using a lockbox, or locking the lab space when vacant for even short periods of time.
- Close all chemical waste containers tightly when not in use (remove funnels after use and cap the container tightly).

Training

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

Regulated Chemical Waste

Send an email to chemwaste@emory.edu for chemical waste pick-ups and to request new waste containers.

A chemical waste **disposal inventory form** should accompany all waste containers at the time of pickup.

Regulated Radioactive Waste

Radioactive waste pick-ups should be requested via EHS Assist pick-up.

A radioactive waste **disposal inventory form** should accompany all waste containers at the time of pickup.

PPE

Choice to be based on the potential exposures involved:

Eye: Glasses, goggles & face shields.

Gloves: Appropriate for the type of procedure.

Clothing: Gowns, lab coats, aprons, coveralls.

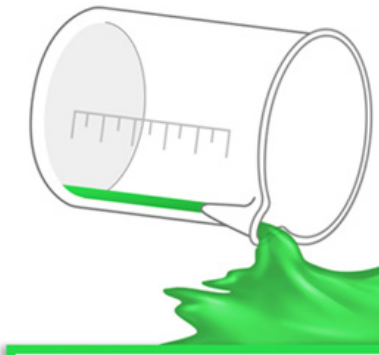
Respirators: Appropriate for the type of procedure.

Eye Wash Testing

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

Certifications

Use of Biosafety Cabinets, Geiger Meters & Chemical Fume Hoods require an annual certification.



SPILL?

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.

Reminders

- When moving Biological Safety Cabinets to a different floor or a different building, the BSC must be decontaminated prior to the move and affixed with the equipment hazard tag.
  - » Link to **equipment hazard tag**: http://ow.ly/RZG9U
- The regulated waste schedule can be found by visiting: http://ow.ly/RZG5M
- Personnel working in your lab who are not affiliated with Emory or Oxford (either as a student or paid worker) need to be documented by submitting a volunteer form or a minor form if the individual is under 18. The volunteer would also need to be added to the Biosafety protocol by submitting an amendment. Minors do not need to be added to Biosafety protocols.
  - » Link to **volunteer form**: http://ow.ly/RZFYS
  - » Link to **minor form**: http://ow.ly/RZFVw
  - » Link for **submitting an amendment**: http://ow.ly/RZFRm
- When decommissioning a lab space, please review our decommissioning guide to ensure the lab is in safe and stable condition for personnel to enter.
  - » Link for **decommissioning guide**: http://ow.ly/RZCXV

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.

Fire Extinguishers

Visual inspections of your fire extinguishers are conducted monthly:

A. Is it present and mounted in its proper location?

B. Is it readily accessible?

C. Initial and date the attached tag.

If it appears to need servicing, please contact Campus Services at 7-7463.

Want to Share Feedback?

Send comments to **biosafe@emory.edu.**

We look forward to reading your ideas and comments!

Building Liaisons

Radiation and Research liaisons can be found at **http://ehso.emory.edu/about/**

Signature Here

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