



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

Eye wash stations should be tested **once per month**.

Certifications

The following require **annual** certification:

- Biosafety Cabinets
- Geiger Meters
- Chemical Fume Hoods

Announcing New Changes to Specific Biosafety Cabinet Certifications

Direct-connected or canopy-connected Biosafety Cabinets (BSCs) Class II, Type A1 and A2 without exhaust alarm, will not be certified after April 15, 2016.

What is the change?

NSF Accredited field certifiers shall no longer certify either direct-connected Type A cabinets or canopy connected Type A cabinets without exhaust alarms, even if specifically asked to do so by the customer.

What does that mean?

All Class II Type A cabinets (past or present) that are exhausted outdoors **must be connected by a functioning Canopy Exhaust Connection (CEC) and equipped with an exhaust airflow alarm**. The use of Hard Exhaust Connections (HECs) will not be allowed.

Do I have a Direct-connected or Canopy-connected Type A BSC?

Hard ducting of Type A and/or Type A/B3 BSCs was acceptable for some NSF-listed BSCs from 1981-2002. Canopy connections, defined in the late 1970s did not have a requirement for an exhaust alarm until 2012. As a result, there may be numerous NSF-listed Type A BSCs with a hard connection or with the canopy not equipped with a suitable alarm system that can no longer be certified by an NSF-accredited certifier.



You can type the manufacturer's name in the following website and determine if there is a possibility for your BSC to be canopy-connected: <http://www.nsf.org/certified-products-systems>

When will this change happen?

After April 15, 2016, field certifiers will not certify these cabinets.

What do I need to do?

If you do not have a direct-connected or canopy-connected Type A BSC, you **do not** need to do anything. If you have a direct-connected or canopy-connected Type A BSC, please contact biosafe@emory.edu, and we will assist you in what you need to do before April 15th.

Fire Safety in Labs: Working with Hot Plates

A recent fire occurred on campus that caused substantial damage to a chemical fume hood. Many of the components of this important engineering control will have to be replaced. The cause of the fire is suspected to be due to a defect in the hot plate that was used. To continue our discussion on hot plate safety (see [May 2015 Lab Rat](#)), keep the following points in mind:

- 1. Unplug hot plates when not in use.** This not only reduces energy consumption, but reduces the chance of spontaneous heating events.
- 2. Discontinue use of any hot plate that:**
 - a. Has malfunctioned
 - b. Has a frayed cord
 - c. Was purchased over 30 years ago
- 3. When only stirring is required, use a stirrer instead of a hot plate/stirrer combo unit.**

Hot plate relay heater switches can fail unexpectedly and cause spontaneous heating events. See *Picture 1* for a model that has been reported to fail in this manner:



Picture 1. Corning PC-351 Hotplate/Stirrer Combo Unit

Another factor in this fire was improper storage of flammable materials. Flammable materials should be kept:

- away from sources of heat (e.g. hot plates, heat guns & lab ovens), and
- away from oxidizers (e.g. hydrogen peroxide & potassium permanganate)
- away from compressed air & solvent canisters (e.g. Dust-Off, aerosol cans)
- covered to prevent evaporation and formation of flammable vapors.

See *Picture 2* and *3* for examples of appropriate storage locations for flammable materials.



Picture 2. Refrigerator/Freezer Designed for Flammable Materials Storage



Picture 3. Flammable Materials Storage Cabinet

Fire Extinguishers

Visual inspections of your fire extinguishers should be conducted **monthly**, confirming the following:

- Is it present and mounted in its proper location? Is it readily accessible?
- Is the pin in place and is the gauge needle in the green?

After confirming these questions, **initial and date the attached tag.**

For **servicing**, contact Campus Services at 404-727-7463.

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!

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.

BIORRAFT

Don't forget to register your lab!

Visit our website for more details: ehso.emory.edu



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.

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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