
Laboratory Safety and Health Management

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1. GENERAL

The purpose of laboratory safety and health management is to recognize the unique health and safety hazards present in laboratory work environments and to reduce the risks of employee exposure to hazardous materials or conditions in system laboratories.

2. PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Each member with laboratory use of potentially harmful substances, materials or equipment should:

- (a) Identify workplace hazards associated with potentially harmful substances or conditions;
- (b) Develop programs on identified health and safety hazards to reduce risk to faculty, staff, students and visitors;
- (c) Provide and document safety training to affected faculty, staff, students and visitors on identified health and safety hazards; and
- (d) Implement a laboratory safety program in accordance with prudent practices in the laboratory to reduce occupational exposure to health and safety hazards.

3. All laboratory staff who work with hazardous materials must be trained to safely respond to releases, spills, fires or explosion risks. Only employees trained in spill and emergency response are be allowed to clean-up uncontrolled incidents. Laboratory employees should have the responsibility, training and equipment to control and/or clean-up an incidental or incipient release, spill or fire.

- (a) Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is to protect personnel from risk of injury or death by creating a barrier against workplace hazards.
- (b) Personal protective equipment is not a substitute for appropriate engineering or administrative controls or prudent work practices but must be used in conjunction with these controls to ensure the safety and health of personnel.

4. COORDINATION

The laboratory safety program should be consistent with other system program guidelines, including chemical safety, biological safety, radiation safety, and other safety and health provisions, to ensure identification and control of potentially harmful exposures to health and safety hazards in laboratories.

REFERENCES AND RELATED STATUTES

25 Tex. Admin. Code §295 Subchapter A, [Hazard Communication](#)

OSHA Laboratory Safety Guidance ([OSHA 3404-11R 2001](#))

National Academies Press [Prudent Practices in the Laboratory](#)

29 CFR §1910.1200 [Hazard Communication](#)

29 CFR §1910.1450 [Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories](#)