Welcome to winter, Purdue. At REM, our job is to help you stay safe in your lab. Here are a few things you need to know.

Personal Protective Equipment & Hazard Assessments

Ever heard of a Hazard Assessment? It may sound complicated, but let me break it down for you.

Hazard Assessments are one component of Purdue’s Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy, a policy that is meant to protect you from chemical, radiological, biological, and mechanical hazards in your work space. As part of that policy, we require that you complete a Hazard Assessment. You can complete Hazard Assessments based on a single task, job position, or location.

So, how do you do that?
Step 1: Identify hazards.
Step 2: Identify ways to prevent those hazards with the use of PPE or control measures.
Step 3: Communicate the decisions and train each person in the use of PPE and document the training.
Step 4: Complete a Certificate of Hazard Assessment and post it in your area (Must be signed by PI).

When you are identifying hazards, thinking about things that could go wrong in your lab is a good place to start. “What if?” questions can aid you in identification of hazards. For example, what if this chemical got on my skin or in my eyes? The PPE you should use to protect from that hazard would include gloves, safety glasses, and a lab coat. Or what if I inhaled this chemical? To prevent this hazard, work with that chemical should be done in a fume hood.

More information about the PPE policy and Hazard Assessments can be found at [http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/booklets/PPEPolicy.pdf](http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/booklets/PPEPolicy.pdf) It will give you more information about completing hazard assessments and identifying possible hazards as well as guidance on PPE selections.

Ethidium Bromide Debris

***Notice***

If you generate solid waste or debris that is contaminated with Ethidium Bromide (EtBr or EB), it is hazardous waste. However, do NOT use orange biohazard bags to dispose of this waste. Please double-bag the dry waste in plain black trash bags. Ziploc bags or cardboard boxes are also acceptable.

For more info, go to: [http://www.purdue.edu/rem/hmm/ethidbr.htm](http://www.purdue.edu/rem/hmm/ethidbr.htm)

*Only YOU Can Prevent Unknown Chemicals*

Preventing unknown chemicals in your lab is easy, all you need to do is label your chemicals when you use them and dispose of chemicals no one is using. However, if you do find yourself with unknown chemicals, please submit them on a Hazardous Waste Pickup Request. When you do, we will send an e-mail asking the following questions:

- Can you provide me with any information regarding the unknowns on your pickup request?
- Are there any markings?
- What experiment was it used for?
- Was it inherited from previous lab occupants?
- Was it simply not labeled upon transferring?

Characterizing unknown chemicals is time-consuming and costly so we are trying to gather more information about your chemicals in order to dispose of them properly. For more Information, go to: [http://www.purdue.edu/rem/hmm/unknown.htm](http://www.purdue.edu/rem/hmm/unknown.htm)

*Smokey the Bear is a mascot of the U.S. Forest Service*
REM Hazardous Waste Pick-up Team

You might have seen these guys around your building or in your lab, they are REM’s Hazardous Waste Pick-up Crew. They are out on campus picking up chemical waste nearly 40 hours per week! If you have a question about your waste, they will be glad to help you find an answer.

From left to right: Stuart, Juan, Brandon, and Mike

Do you have a lab safety question or issue you’d like Amy to address in this newsletter? Let her know!

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