**Special Biological Safety Issue**

Due to a recent near-miss exposure on campus, please review the following information regarding biological safety in laboratories.

**Some Research Protocols Require Approval**

Safety is important in all lab applications, but it is important to know that many experiments and/or research are governed by University approved protocol. For example, when you work with:

- Animals, require approval from Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC)
- Biological agents, require approval from the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)
- Human subjects, require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval

If your research expands or changes beyond the current protocol description, an amendment describing these changes must be submitted to the appropriate committee or REM before any work is done.

**Biological and Chemical Hazard Awareness**

Review Safety Data Sheets or agent risk assessment with all staff that will be exposed either through direct handling or proximity. Understand signs and symptoms of exposure, transmission routes, personal protective equipment requirements, decontamination, and accident procedures. All personnel participating in this project must be knowledgeable and trained in the required laboratory techniques, decontamination, security, and familiar with biohazard or chemical containment policies and procedures. New lab staff must have documented training before starting work. Persons entering the laboratory must be advised of the potential hazards and meet specific entry/exit requirements.

For more information or if you have any questions,

- Check out REM’s environmental health website: http://www.purdue.edu/rem/eh/eh.htm
- Go to the website for the Office of Research Integrity and Regulatory Affairs (ORIRA): http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/
- Contact Robert Golden: rwgolden@purdue.edu or 49-41496.

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**Personal Protective Equipment**

The laboratory supervisor must ensure that laboratory personnel receive appropriate training regarding chemical or biohazardous agents, including the type of required personal protective equipment. At a minimum, the following PPE should be worn:

- Gloves
- Outerwear (single use when directly handling high hazards)
- Eye protection
- If necessary, respiratory protection (a fit tested N-95 mask or higher level respiratory protective devices)

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**Exposures / Injury**

All employees, whether undergrad, grad, part-time, or full-time, must go to IU Health Arnett Occupational Health Center, Unity Healthcare’s Regional Occupational Care Center (ROCC), or one of the emergency rooms (if emergency room is required). Purdue University Student Health (PUSH) or the Center for Healthy Living should not be used for ANY employee injury. Report the incident to Radiological & Environmental (REM) as soon as possible.

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**Waste Disposal**

Biological waste must be managed separately from chemical waste. The most common example where chemical waste is mistaken for biological waste is agarose gel contaminated with ethidium bromide or heavy metals (i.e. arsenic, chromium). This type of material should always be managed as chemical waste. When both chemical and biological waste types exist, the biological agent(s) should be treated first. Once the biological agents have been deactivated by either autoclave or chemical disinfection, the remaining chemical waste should be submitted on a Hazardous Materials Pickup Request Form: http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/files/forms.htm#HMM001