Successful EPA and IDEM Inspections

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management were on campus in May to conduct hazardous waste inspections. During this inspection, they are looking for things like training records, open and/or unlabeled waste containers, excess storage of hazardous waste, and poor housekeeping. We are pleased to announce that no laboratory violations were found during these inspections. Thank you to everyone for continuing to manage your hazardous waste in a safe and compliant manner and keep up the good work!

Summer Edition

Top Five Lab Related Injuries

Here are the top five lab related injuries from last year:

1. Cuts: $41,000
2. Burns (thermal & chemical): $91,000
3. Needle Sticks: $1,000
4. Chemical/object in eye: $5,000
5. Animal Bites: $1,000

Injuries are expensive! In the last 8 years, Purdue has spent over a million dollars on lab related injuries. Always take any necessary precautions for the hazards in your lab.

Guide to Handling a Lab Related Injury

Assess the injury. Call 911 if there is even the slightest reason to do so. Always call 911 if the injury is a result of explosion, gas release, fire, or violent behavior. Follow the instructions that the 911 operator provides. Note: If you are calling from a non-campus phone, let the operator know that you are on the Purdue campus. The operator either will transfer your call to the Purdue dispatcher or will call for the Purdue ambulance.

Injuries that do not require an ambulance:

Ex) Abrasions, Bruises, Minor lacerations, Punctures*, Splinters, Minor burns, Dirt or dust in the eye, Sprains, Strains, Repetitive motion injuries, or Rashes.

Injuries or health problems that do require an ambulance:

Ex) Chest pain, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Diabetic emergencies, Loss of consciousness, Combative or confused, Head injury or serious blow to the head, Uncontrolled bleeding, Fractures and dislocations, Falls from height or down stairs, Injuries of the spine -- neck or back, Severe back pain, Eye injuries/ chemicals in the eye, Chemical burns, and any injury that causes severe pain.

*Punctures or abrasions that involve needles sticks or biohazard contaminated sharps must be treated by health care professionals. Report exposure to unfixed human blood, fluids, or cell lines to the University Biosafety Officer (Robert Golden: call 49-41496 or email rwgolden@purdue.edu).

Where do I send an injured employee?

Any employee, 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 an emergency room (if required). Purdue University Student Health (PUSH) or Purdue Center for Healthy Living are not to be used for ANY employee injury. Be sure to let the health care provider know if there were any chemical or biological exposures.

IU Health Arnett Occupational Health Center, 765-448-8000.
1) 1 Walter Scholer Drive, Lafayette, 8 am – 8 pm every day.
2) 253 Sagamore Pkwy West, West Lafayette, 7 am – 9 pm every day, 8 am – 8 pm holidays

Regional Occupational Health Center (ROCC), 765-446-2450
1321 Unity Place, Creasy Lane, Lafayette, 8 am—6 pm Monday-Friday. Extended hours are available through Unity Immediate Care, 8 am—8 pm daily, except Christmas. Call first.

Transportation: If you can safely drive yourself, you may use your own vehicle to go to an approved medical provider. Your supervisor or another designated person may drive you to an approved medical provider using his or her own vehicle or one owned by the University. If someone drives his or her own vehicle, the driver assumes liability for any damage to the vehicle or to any other involved vehicles, if an accident occurs.

Need to report an injury? Go to the REM webpage (www.Purdue.edu/REM) and open the First Report of Injury (FROI) form. Follow instructions and complete the online form. Very minor scratches or burns can be self-treated by the injured person but these still need to be recorded on a FROI form.
New Chemical Hygiene Plan Includes New Lab PPE Policy

A new and improved Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) can be found at [http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/booklets/chp2014.pdf](http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/booklets/chp2014.pdf). Remember, all laboratories are required to have a lab-specific CHP in place, meaning you need to take our template and customize it to meet your needs. The best way to do this is to add lab-specific SOPs ([http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/files/sop.htm](http://www.purdue.edu/rem/home/files/sop.htm)), lab-specific hazard assessments, and any other lab-specific rules/requirements. The template covers most hazards in your typical labs, but if there are any hazards in the lab not covered by the CHP then those hazards need to be added.

The biggest change included in the new CHP is the Lab PPE Policy. Check out Chapter 6 of the CHP for details, but here’s a few details you need to know:

- This policy applies to all personnel that work with or around hazardous chemicals or other safety and health hazards.
- To be present in the laboratory, the minimum PPE requirements include safety glasses, long pants, and closed-toe shoes.
- To work with chemicals in the laboratory, the minimum PPE requirements include safety glasses or goggles, lab coat, chemical-resistant gloves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes. See picture at right.
- Flame-resistant lab coats are required when working with pyrophoric materials or greater than 1 liter of flammable liquids.
- Shorts, sandals, or open-toe shoes are not permitted under any circumstance.
- Additional PPE may be necessary due to specific hazards in the lab, indicated by the SDS, laboratory SOP, facility policies, or regulatory requirements. Consult with your supervisor for further guidance.

Proper Laboratory PPE

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"Lab Hazard Rating System" by Jorge Cham

[www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)

"Piled Higher and Deeper" by Jorge Cham

[www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)

To all my readers- This will be the last Amy’s Lab Safety Newsletter. I’ll be leaving Purdue at the end of this month because I’ve gotten a new job! But keep your eyes peeled, REM will put out a new version of the Lab Safety Newsletter later this year. Please direct any comments or questions to Adam Krajicek. E-mail [arkrajicek@purdue.edu](mailto:arkrajicek@purdue.edu); Phone 49-63072.