

Research Laboratory Safety Reminders

In a research laboratory setting, one must be fully aware of their responsibilities at all times while carrying out research activities. Following workplace safety protocols is paramount for avoiding potential incidents or situations that could result in the loss of property and valuable research materials, along with exposing you and your colleagues to potentially life-threatening events.

Safety standards have been adopted by the university in response to health and safety concerns by establishing policy and procedures. This process establishes a clear direction and expectation for everyone in the university community. The policies and procedures also reflect regulatory compliance mandates placed upon the university in assuring workplace exposure to hazards are being addressed.

The following is a sample of some of the workplace safety violations that have been noted during routine safety audits:

- Food and drink are being consumed in the lab. The risk of ingesting a hazardous material can easily occur.
- Cosmetics are being applied, e.g., lip balm, which can easily transfer contaminants to your lips or skin which will eventually be ingested or absorbed.
- Closed toe and heel shoes are not being worn. Flip-flops and sandals do not provide the foot protection needed, especially from spills.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is not being used or is absent. PPE helps prevent you from accidental exposure to hazardous materials.

For example, a lab coat protects your bare skin from hazardous materials contamination as well as protecting your clothing.

- Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing is being worn outside the lab work area, which can expose others to potential contaminants.
- Minors are present in the lab. The health and safety of the child is in jeopardy. Injury and/or death are a distinct possibility since a child does not fully understand the consequences of touching, running or playing in a research lab.
- Training activities are not being documented. If safety training is not documented, regulatory agencies deem training to not have occurred and will cite you. Departments and Principle Investigators are responsible for paying fines levied against them.
- Pets are being brought into the lab. Unless the pet is a designated service animal, pets are not allowed. They too can become contaminated with hazardous material which then will be transferred home.
- Access to buildings or controlled areas is being given to non-university personnel or non-authorized personnel. This exposes the university, the department and you to potential civil and criminal liability issues if an incident should occur.

SAFETY REMINDERS WHEN WORKING IN THE RESEARCH LABORATORIES

- Injury or accident reporting form:
 - <http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/article/injury-reporting-procedure>
- No food or drink in the work place:
 - <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/ppm/290/290-15.pdf>
- Closed toe, closed to heel shoes in the work place:
 - <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/290/290-50.pdf>
- Based on a risk assessment, the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided and worn at all times:
 - <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/290/290-50.pdf>
- Personal protective equipment and clothing worn for protection in laboratories using chemical, biological, or radiologic materials must not be worn outside the work area:
 - <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/290/290-50.pdf>
- Annual Laboratory Safety training required:
 - <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/290/290-15.pdf>
- Access card/keys policy:
 - <https://cnssafety.ucdavis.edu/building-access>
- Minors in the Research Laboratory:
 - <http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/290/290-32.pdf>
- Volunteers must register with CNS Safety Manager and fill out appropriate forms first:
 - lslaughlin@ucdavis.edu