

# Spring Term 2015 Safety Memorandum

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## Reminder: Safety Training Records

It is imperative that all laboratory workers receive adequate training to enable them to conduct their research work safely. That such training has occurred must be documented. Unfortunately, although a majority of our faculty does an excellent job of safety training, it is rarely adequately documented. Training records are a required component of a laboratory-specific chemical hygiene plan (CHP) and can be captured in various ways. Department of Chemistry PIs/laboratory managers are asked to generate safety training records for **all** of their lab coworkers (including graduate and undergraduate students as well as post-doctorals) and to **provide copies to Sarah Burton in Gilbert 153 by June 12, 2015**.

For an example of a safety training record, see the following link:

[http://chemistry.oregonstate.edu/blakemore/Downloads/BRG\\_safetytrainingrecord.pdf](http://chemistry.oregonstate.edu/blakemore/Downloads/BRG_safetytrainingrecord.pdf)

In addition, there is a more generic safety training record available in the new template for laboratory specific CHPs; see the following link:

<http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/CHP>

## Coming Soon: Laboratory Safety Assessment Self-Audit Reporting

Many chemistry laboratories in the Department already include a process of regular safety self-audits. The Departmental Safety Advisory Group plans to move to a model in which the completion of these audits is reported to the Group, tentatively once per term. This would not constitute an inspection by the Group, nor would the Group scrutinize reported issues. Rather, it is intended to simply document what should already be taking place in departmental laboratories (as was previously mandated); PIs/laboratory managers would still be ultimately responsible for ensuring safety compliance. The Group's current intent is to use the existing EH&S form, available here:

[http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/sites/default/files/pdf/laboratory\\_safety\\_assessment.pdf](http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/sites/default/files/pdf/laboratory_safety_assessment.pdf)

## Wording for Chemistry Teaching Laboratories Still Applies in Summer

The Group is occasionally asked if the rules for PPE (including appropriate clothing) may be relaxed in teaching laboratories during the summer due to higher temperatures in buildings, etc. No. All PPE requirements must be observed regardless of the season. As a reminder, the wording for all wet chemistry laboratory courses, adopted in the fall of 2014, reads:

*"All students must wear closed shoes and be dressed such that there is absolutely no exposed skin below the waist. Students should consult the instructor of record if they have any questions about meeting the standards for attire."*

If instructors are concerned that laboratory temperatures are too high for students to safely conduct their work, they should contact the Department of Chemistry Chair.

## Safety Shower and Eye Wash Station Testing

Safety showers in a majority of OSU laboratories are now regularly tested by EH&S; however, the testing of eye wash stations remains the responsibility of PIs/laboratory managers. Eye wash stations are easy to test without special gear and these units should be flushed on a regular basis (every 1–2 weeks) to avoid water stagnation. An inspection tag should be attached to the station to document when tests are completed and by whom.

## Reminder: Approval of Outreach Events

Please note that a formal approval is required for all outreach activities involving any kind of chemical experiment/demonstration. The form may be found on the Department of Chemistry website via *Research > Safety Web > Outreach* (see below) and must be submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the event.

<http://chemsafety.chem.oregonstate.edu/content/approval-outreach-events>

## SDS/MSDS Information Online

Access to SDS/MSDS information is critical to proper laboratory safety. Although there are many sources available, please note that OSU personnel have access to MSDSOnline. Go to <http://oregonstate.edu/ehs/sds> for access.