

Fall Term 11: Safety Memorandum

• Departmental Policy on Laboratory Attire and PPE: A Reminder

All those working in Dept. of Chemistry laboratories, including undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctorals, instructors, and PI's, are required to wear clothing covering them from shoulders to ankles. Footwear must be closed at the toe and heel. Short-sleeved shirts & blouses are acceptable, but not shoulder-less garments (e.g., tank tops). Long pants are recommended for both males and females and short trousers or short skirts are not permitted. Personal protective equipment (PPE) as posted must also be worn; for most labs within the department, required PPE includes safety goggles/glasses, gloves, and lab coats.

Teaching laboratory instructors and TA's are asked to be especially mindful of this policy. Please aim to set a good example to undergraduate students and enforce implementation of the safety rules.

• Posting of Emergency Procedures Guide and Lab Safety Reference Guide

The Campus Emergency Procedures Guide and EH&S's Lab Safety Reference Guide should be prominently displayed in all laboratories containing chemicals. Please check the space that you work in for these important safety notices and if they are missing (or out of date) you may obtain replacements free of charge from Chem Stores.

• Chemical Safety Seminar Class for 1st Year Graduate Students (CH607 - 010)

First year graduate students are reminded to register for the Chemical Safety Seminar class CH607 (Section 010, CRN 34071) for winter term. The class will meet once a week from 12-1 pm on Monday lunchtimes in Gilbert 324 and begins on January 9.

<http://www.chemistry.oregonstate.edu/blakemore/safety/safetyCH607.html>

• Chemical Safety Hazard Board (CSB) Report on Texas Tech Accident

The CSB recently published the results of their investigation of an accident in an academic laboratory at Texas Tech that resulted in an explosion and serious injury to a graduate student. Among the recommendations made by the report were the following takeaways:

- research-specific written protocols and training are necessary to manage laboratory risks
- incidents and near-misses should be documented, tracked, and communicated

Researchers with appropriate expertise are again encouraged to write Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for use within their research groups and also for potential sharing via SafetyWeb. Likewise, please be mindful to report on near-misses as well as actual incidents - this action could help to prevent future serious accidents. Current SOPs on SafetyWeb, a summary of the CSB report on the Texas Tech explosion, and a video produced by the CSB documenting this and two other significant academic lab accidents, can all be found from the following URLs.

<http://www.chemistry.oregonstate.edu/blakemore/safety/safetyguidelines.html>

<http://www.csb.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=386>

<http://www.csb.gov/videoroom/detail.aspx?VID=61>