

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

## RESEARCH SAFETY

# GENERAL LAB SAFETY



## General Laboratory Safety Rules

Laboratory safety is crucial in protecting researchers, students and staff from hazards in the laboratory environment. Basic factors such as the physical state (gas, liquid or solid) of the chemicals being used and stored in the lab, and the type of facilities and equipment involved with the procedure should be considered before any work with hazardous materials occurs.

The following basic rules provide hygiene and behavior safety information to avoid accidents in the laboratory.

- **Dress appropriately** - Wear proper PPE, i.e. lab coats, eye protection, close-toed shoes, and appropriate gloves. For those with long hair, tie it back.
- **Keep emergency numbers updated on your lab door & know where to find safety equipment**, so you can access them quickly if necessary.
- **No Food, No Drink** - Don't eat, drink, or chew gum in labs and never taste chemicals.

- **Hazard Assessment** - Perform hazard assessments and ensure certifications of Hazard Assessments are readily available.
- **Be Attentive** - Be attentive while in the lab. Don't leave experiments unattended.
- **Safety Signs** - Post appropriate signs to warn of hazards, hazardous materials, hazardous equipment or other special conditions.
- **Labels** - All containers must have appropriate labels.
- **Be careful when handling hot glassware** - Turn off all heating appliances when not in use.
- **Keep a clean workspace** - Don't obstruct work areas, floors or exits. Keep coats, bags and other personal items stored in designated areas away from the lab.
- **Clean up** - After completing the lab, carefully clear workspace and the equipment and wash your hands.



Administrative Operations

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