

SAFETY POLICIES FOR THE TEACHING LABORATORIES

Our laboratory safety program in the teaching laboratories participates in the campus-wide Illness and Injury Prevention Program (IIPP). One thing that the IIPP requires is that all faculty, staff and students who work in a laboratory receive proper safety training. Therefore a brief but formal safety training session will be conducted at the beginning of each of our laboratory courses. At the end of this session we will ask you to sign off on this training, acknowledging that you have received basic training, that you are aware of the types of safety-related resources available to you and that you acknowledge that you are a participant in the campus-wide safety program.

Please bear in mind that this is a serious matter both in terms of your own personal safety, the safety of your colleagues, and the safety of the laboratory. The Illness and Injury Prevention Program is this campus's implementation of state and federal safety laws. The rights and responsibilities of each organization and individual are clearly spelled out in these laws.

The remainder of this document summarizes the safety issues which are important in all of the teaching laboratories. Please read it carefully. A summary of specific hazards, required personal protective equipment and emergency response procedures for each laboratory class is provided in a separate document. Make sure that you get a copy of the "Laboratory Experiments Hazards Review" for the class you are taking.

One last comment. The training given by your laboratory instructor is not sufficient for you to be able to work in the laboratory without the instructor being present.

Every Student's Responsibilities

Every UC Davis student, like every UC Davis employee, is considered part of the safety program, entitled to all of its benefits and obligated to fulfill certain responsibilities. One of the major benefits of this program are that the University can provide you with training and technical support for virtually any safety-related issue. Your responsibility in this context is to make sure you have the necessary training and information so that you can do your job safely. From this follows our basic rule regarding the actions of individuals in the laboratory: if you use it you are responsible for it. This includes not only laboratory equipment and procedures but also any substance you buy, use, store or dispose of.

An individual's responsibilities extends beyond their own personal activities. Each person who uses a laboratory is expected to take appropriate action when an unsafe condition exists. This might entail correcting a potentially hazardous situation yourself, reporting the situation to those qualified or authorized to handle it, or even intervening when another person is creating a hazard for either their self, others, the equipment and the building.

Every Student's Right-To-Know

Students have a right to know what hazards they may encounter while pursuing their education and what measures to take to protect themselves. According to campus policy, all UC Davis employees

and students must receive training and information about chemical, biological, radiation and physical hazards. Your laboratory instructor will discuss health and safety precautions with you at the beginning of each quarter and at the beginning of each experiment. In addition, a list of all of the hazards present in a given laboratory and the associated hazard response procedures are contained in a red binder entitled “Chemical Hygiene Plan”.

Instructor’s Responsibilities

Your instructor is required to see that you receive adequate training before working in the laboratory. He/she will review general health and safety precautions, proper experimental procedures and emergency procedures. In addition, your instructor is your first resource for obtaining additional information when necessary. Many of the issues that will be covered are listed in the following section.

Laboratory Safety Equipment and Procedures

During the laboratory safety training session your instructor will discuss the following points, even showing you where some of these items are and how they work.

- C Location and contents of the laboratory’s Chemical Hygiene Plan (red binder)
- C Location of MSDS binder, if separate from the Chemical Hygiene Plan
- C Evacuation procedure
- C Locations of the telephone and emergency phone numbers, including the phone numbers of the persons responsible for the laboratory and the departmental safety committee.
- C Location of the fire extinguisher
- C Location of the chemical spill kit
- C Location of the first aid kit
- C Location of the emergency shower and eye-wash station
- C Location of the fire alarms and the ventilation shutdown switches
- C Guidelines on the storage of hazardous chemicals, including showing the locations of the acid and flammables lockers
- C How to dispose of broken glass and other sharp waste, including showing the location of the sharps container
- C Review of the basic rules for laboratory conduct

Laboratory Hazards Review

Your instructor should familiarize you with all of the hazards present in the laboratory even when no experiments are in progress. In addition, you may be shown how to deal with a problem involving these hazards. If you ever forget, remember that these procedures are also outlined in the Chemical Hygiene Plan (red binder).

Laboratory Experiment Hazards Review

Additional hazards may be present when conducting the laboratory experiments. These hazards are described in the procedure for each experiment. Your instructor will review these with you at the beginning of each experiment and will instruct you on how to negotiate these hazards, how to deal with accidents as well as what personal protective equipment is recommended and what is required.