

# LABORATORY SAFETY

Laboratories should be a comfortable and safe environment first and foremost. I expect my students to be serious about safety. We will all practice safety habits that will carry on to our future employers and for the rest of our lives.

## General Laboratory Habits

- Exercise common sense.
- No eating or drinking or smoking.
- Never leave active experiments unattended
- Don't put clothing or backpack on the lab bench
- Maintain open aisles.
- Maintain a clean and tidy bench space.
- Make up experiments or other experiments need instructor authorization first.
- No 'horseplay', pushing, running.
- Do not rush and take short breaks if necessary.

## Attire

- Wear safety glasses at all times. I prefer goggles, as they provide protection from a splash. Uvex makes a very comfortable pair of cushioned goggles. Cleaning of fogged or blurry glasses should be performed outside the lab.
- Contact lenses are not allowed. Chemical vapors can 'weld' them to your eyes. Chemicals/vapors can get trapped underneath.
- Clothing do's: wear long pants, closed toe shoes, tie back long hair. Labcoats are not mandatory, but recommended.
- Clothing don'ts: don't wear long sleeves, sandals, shorts, mini-skirts, tank tops. Also avoid outrageous jewelry that can get caught in things or make one clumsy at handling equipment.

## When You Leave

- Clean your bench and workspace, including issued equipment.
- Make sure you **turn off gas, water**. Also turn of and unplug issued equipment.
- Wash your hands.

## Glassware

- Put broken glassware in the glassware waste container.
- Exercise caution when assembling glassware, especially when inserting glass tubing into corks. (Ask the instructor).

## Lab Familiarity

- Know wear the eye wash, safety-showers, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits are located before working.
- Make yourself familiar with the hazards in the labs (especially new one's). Be familiar with the properties of the chemicals you are looking up. Read the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on the chemicals you will use.
- Make yourself familiar with your surroundings. Know who is around you and what they are doing. If you see anything unsafe, point it out to them immediately.
- Know where to meet in case of an evacuation or fire drill.
- If a fire alarm does go off, turn off any gas and go to the agreed outside meeting place in an orderly fashion. **Do not run.**
- In case of earthquake, find a door frame or solid table to protect you. After the tremors, turn off gas, water, vacuum etc. and **exit the building as soon as safely possible. Don't run.**
- For all other disasters, calmly follow the instructor's orders.

## Accidents and Spills

- Notify instructor **immediately** of any accident, whatsoever. This applies to all accidents listed below.
- If chemicals get in your eyes, locate the eyewash immediately, notify instructor and ask for help.
- If any chemicals get on you, notify instructor, flush with cold water immediately. Remove any clothing that soaked up the chemicals.
- For any spill, notify your instructor immediately,
- For small cuts, wash the wound, remove glass and apply pressure with a paper towel.

## Chemical Handling

- Organic solvents must always be used and dispensed in fume hoods.
- Chemical waste must go into the appropriate containers. **Never overfill the container.** Notify the instructor immediately if the container is full.
- Read labels of all chemicals and waste carefully and thoroughly.
- Keep stocks solutions in their designated place.
- Chemicals are expensive. Let's avoid contaminating them. Use on the designated dispenser to remove chemicals from stock containers.
- Contaminated gloves should not be reused.

**I have read and checked all these rules and agree to abide by them.**

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Your Name

Date