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Northeastern University

Laboratory Safety Newsletter

Office of Environmental Health & Safety

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Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Northeastern University

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EHS
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
FALL 2011
Vol. 1, Issue 2

FALL LABORATORY SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Chemical Inventory

Over the next several months Northeastern will be implementing a campus-wide chemical inventory system. Such a system is necessary to insure we continue to meet a variety of regulatory requirements and build on efforts to improve the management of hazardous materials on campus.

The new software called CambridgeSoft Inventory, provides great flexibility in workflow, allowing scientists to search for reagents in their own labs and in the commercial reagent (ACX) database. It also provides container location tracking info via barcodes, streamlined mechanisms for updating reagent container locations and supplies, and customizable reporting tools. As a networked system, you will have the ability to view the entire campus inventory, allowing you to avoid redundant purchases for infrequently used chemicals.

Additional information will be coming soon.

Laser Safety Program.

Earlier this summer, annual laser safety audits were performed for all Class 3B and 4 laser units on campus. This was done to ensure that these units were in compliance with state regulations, which are based on the current ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Z136.1 standards.

Any lab that plans to purchase and/or use either a Class 3B or 4 laser, is required to contact EHS at x2769 or ehs@neu.edu. Before you can use these lasers in a research lab, the proper engineering and administrative safety controls need to be in place. These controls include such things as laser barriers, laser safety eyewear, operating and alignment procedures, etc.

Northeastern University
Office of Environmental Health and Safety | 170 Cullinane Hall
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Storage of Compressed Gasses

Compressed gases are unique in that they represent both a physical and a potential chemical hazard when handled and stored in the laboratory. OSHA requires that they be properly secured at all times even if they are empty. A bracket or chain secured firmly above the center of gravity of the cylinder is an appropriate method of storage. If you keep multiple cylinders together, a rack system will secure them better and is an improvement over a single chain.

At no time should a compressed gas cylinder be stored or left in a hallway. This practice is prohibited by Boston Fire Department.

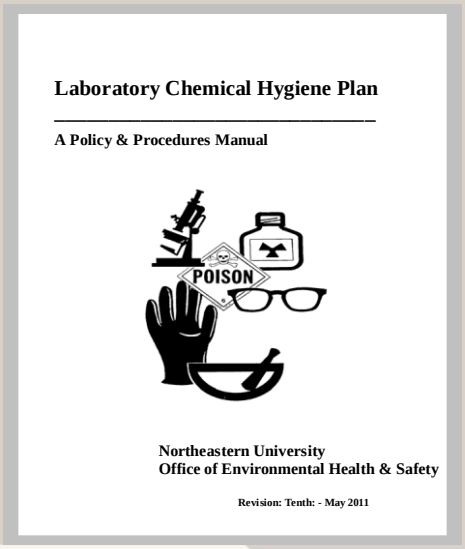
Please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at x2769 or ehs@neu.edu if you have any questions.

Chemical Hygiene Plan Spotlight - Supervision in Laboratories.

The Northeastern University's Chemical Hygiene Plan outlines policies and procedures for workers to follow when working with hazardous chemicals in the laboratory.

Section 2.2.2 outlines supervision requirements for research and teaching laboratories. In paragraph four of this section, the plan states that "visitors, high school and undergraduate students, and any other 'non-employee' must be properly supervised at all times when working in laboratories and shops". A Permission for NEU Laboratory Access form must be filled out for anyone in this category.

Click here to access the complete Chemical Hygiene Plan.


Laboratory Chemical Hygiene Plan

A Policy & Procedures Manual

POISON

Northeastern University
Office of Environmental Health & Safety

Revision: Tenth: - May 2011

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