



Summer 2021



Cultivating Safety

Whether you are new to working in a laboratory or have dedicated your career to research, your safety and the safety of your fellow workers should be your first priority. Accidents happen quickly and can result in serious injuries. Many injuries or illnesses can easily be prevented by following the simple steps below. A lifetime of experience can be as dangerous as inexperience if complacency becomes a factor.

- Know the location of the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and be familiar with the chemicals present in the laboratory.
- Complete appropriate training on GoSignMeUp.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply makeup or touch your contact lenses in the laboratory.
- Do not store food/drink in the laboratory.
- Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth in the laboratory.
- Wear appropriate clothing, including long pants and closed-toe shoes.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., lab coat, eyewear, gloves, etc.) when working in the lab.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly while working in the laboratory and immediately before leaving it. Follow proper handwashing practices.
- Properly label containers used in the laboratory.
- Properly dispose hazardous materials following EHS protocol.
- Report and document accidents in the laboratory.
- Know the location of emergency equipment and how to use it (fire extinguisher, first aid kit, eye wash station, safety showers, emergency power shut off, gas line shut off, etc.).
- Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) when necessary.

For more information on laboratory safety, contact EHS or visit our website:
<https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/administrative-operations/ehs/safety-programs/laboratory-safety>

Laboratory safety at the University of Idaho is managed by Environmental Health and Safety. Led by our Industrial Hygiene group, it is a team effort that can involve everyone in EHS. The purpose of this program is to minimize the risk of injury or illness to lab workers by ensuring they have the training, information and support to work safely in the lab.



Safety Training in GSMU

In 2020, online safety training moved from NetLearning@uidaho into GoSignMeUp (GSMU). In addition to our 60+ courses available for in-person class sessions, 19 courses have been loaded for employees to take online, including lab safety awareness, hazard communication with GHS, and the Radiation Safety Orientation, among others. These courses were built with the needs of our university in mind. Several more online courses are in development now. GSMU may be accessed at: <https://uidaho.gosignmeup.com/public/>

Secondary Containment for Chemicals in Labs

Secondary containment is used to prevent the spread of chemical spills, including spills involving chemical wastes. Spilled chemicals may present a hazard to those occupying the lab or work area and may result in a release to the environment.

Secondary containment is recommended for moving chemicals through buildings or, especially, outdoors. It is also recommended for most hazardous waste containers, especially those stored near sinks or drains.

There are a number of products available for this purpose including, but not limited to, the following:

- Trays for vacuum pumps or oil-containing equipment;
- Party buckets made of polypropylene for carboys, especially those stored on the floor;
- Plastic tubs for use inside fume hoods or near sinks.
- Pre-molded chemical shelf trays for dry chemical storage.

For more information, contact EHS:
208-885-6524 or safety@uidaho.edu.



Plastic bucket for large items like carboys, especially if stored on the floor.



Plastic tubs for use inside fume hoods or near sinks.



Premolded chemical shelf trays for dry storage.

***Safety Is Our
#1 Priority***

EHS Contacts

In an emergency, call 911

For urgent situations, please call until you connect with someone—do not rely on voice mail or email.

EHS Email	safety@uidaho.edu
EHS Office	208-885-6524
Director	208-885-6524
Fire Safety	208-885-6525
Hazardous Materials	208-885-6279
Industrial Hygiene	208-885-5977
Occupational Safety	208-885-6297
Radiation Safety	208-885-6524
Safety Training	208-885-6524

Lab Signage Program

Hazard warning signs are required by regulatory agencies and advise individuals who may need to enter an unfamiliar laboratory as to the types of hazards that are present. A laboratory hazard sign needs to be placed at every main entrance to a laboratory room or complex. The signs must be requested by laboratory personnel, and are produced by EHS. It is the responsibility of the lab to provide information to keep the signs up to date. EHS suggests submitting a new sign request annually to ensure information is current, and any time a change occurs in the lab.

