



University of Idaho Emergency Response Team Spring 2023

The University of Idaho maintains an Emergency Response Team (UIERT) through the office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). This team's purpose is to provide rapid response to incidents that threaten lives, property and the environment, including chemical, radiological and biohazardous incidents.

The UIERT, comprised of all members of EHS, is trained and equipped to handle most incidents that may occur on campus. All team members have completed, at a minimum, a 40-hour hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPER) course as well as FEMA training in Incident Command and are ready to respond. The UIERT maintains an Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) which is fully stocked and ready to use at a moment's notice.



The team responds to about 9 incidents per year; these are typically small incidents. A recent significant response was a hydrochloric acid (HCl) spill in Renfrew Hall in April 2022. The handles of a 40 liter carboy full of HCl broke when it carboy was

lifted. The falling carboy then hit the trolley being used to transport it, split open and spilled HCl. The team responded to this after-hours incident to contain and collect the acid, which had seeped into adjoining rooms and the floor below.

The UIERT has a mutual aid agreement with the City of Moscow to respond to incidents as requested. This service is activated as needed by the Incident Commander acting for the City of Moscow and may be initiated by calling 911. The team continuously collaborates with the state of Idaho Fire Marshal, Moscow Volunteer Fire Department, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Washington State University to share information, plan incident responses and participate in training.



What to do in a Lab Emergency

When is it an "Emergency"?

Any situation that poses an immediate danger to life, property or the environment should be handled as an emergency—call 911. Dispatch has the information needed to send the appropriate help, including campus resources.

In any emergency or other urgent situation, never rely on voice mail, text or email; call until you reach someone that can respond or otherwise send help. For non-emergency urgent situations during regular business hours, this may mean a call to Environmental Health and Safety (208-885-6524), Facilities (208-885-6246), and/or Security (208-885-7054). Security's phone line is staffed 24/7.



Safety Training in GSMU/Canvas

23 online safety courses are offered by EHS through GSMU/Canvas, including Lab Safety awareness, Hazard Communication with GHS, and the Radiation Safety Orientation. Several more online courses are in development. Additionally, 38 courses are offered in-person, either in a classroom or via Zoom. The most current schedule, as well as additional information on safety training, may be found at:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/safety-training>

GSMU: <https://uidaho.gosignmeup.com/public/>

Canvas: <https://canvas.uidaho.edu/>

Need to Take Fire Safety in the Workplace?

This course is no longer a stand-alone module, so finding it is based on your relationship to the university.

For employees, this course is part of the new employee required training or all employee annual required training. You will be assigned these online courses automatically.

Students or others that are unable to access GSMU will need to take an in-person course, "Fire Safety for Students." Send email to safety@uidaho.edu to register.

Employees that can access GSMU do not need to take the in-person class, as they will still be required to complete the online training course.



Report a Safety Concern

EHS Staff Attend FEMA Training

Recently, five members of the EHS emergency response team had the opportunity to travel to Anniston, Alabama for hazardous materials response training offered through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP).

Samir, Char and Drew attended the Hazardous Materials Technologies: Sampling, Monitoring, and Detection class. This intensive, week-long class provided an in depth look into Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive materials. The EHS team was trained to select and operate chemical and biological sampling and monitoring technology as well as radiological and explosives monitoring technology. They performed HAZMAT operations in all levels of PPE.



Above: Samir and Charlene pose in level C personal protective equipment in the training center.

Left: Samir, Charlene and Drew outside the FEMA training facility in Anniston, Alabama.

Below: Andrew prepares for a response in a level A suit.

EHS Contacts

In an emergency, call 911

For urgent situations, please call until you connect with someone—do not rely on voice mail, text or email. After hours, contact U of I Security at 208-885-7054.

EHS Email	safety@uidaho.edu
EHS Office	208-885-6524
Executive 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



Beau and Andrew attended the five-day, 40-hour Hazardous Materials Technician training, which is based on several NFPA® standards. Gaining these HAZMAT-specific response knowledge and skills will enhance the UIERT's ability to respond to HAZMAT emergencies. The hands-on training in high level personal protective equipment, leak containment for drums and pressurized containers, and general decontamination methods improves the team's actions in both small and large scale emergencies. With the university's mutual aid agreements, the training helps ensure the safety the community of Moscow and the surrounding environment and U of I.