



Laboratory Decommissioning

Spring 2024

As a new researcher, entering your newly assigned laboratory for the first time, would you expect to find it clean, organized, and ready to go, or full of all the clutter of a previous occupant? Most people prefer the first option, to start in a clean space that won't



contaminate their own research. To this end, it is important that the former occupant follows U of I lab decommissioning procedures. These procedures are in place to help ensure that someone familiar with the equipment, samples, chemicals and other materials can identify these items and how they were used, and know what might be in any unlabeled containers.

When a lab is abandoned or a researcher is allowed to leave without decommissioning, it can leave a costly mess behind for the responsible department to clean up and arrange for proper disposal through EHS. Analysis and disposal costs are covered by the department in these situations.

If nothing else, it's the right thing to do for the incoming primary investigator (PI) and other researchers.

The decommissioning process must be followed when:

- ◆ A researcher's affiliation with the university ends.
- ◆ A research group is relocated to another lab space.
- ◆ A laboratory renovation is planned.
- ◆ A researcher retires from research activities.

Items of particular concern in a research laboratory include hazardous chemicals (request disposal from EHS), biological materials (contact biosafety@uidaho.edu), and radioactive materials (follow the Radiation Safety Manual). Forms and checklists to assist you in following proper procedures can be found on the EHS website, uidaho.edu/safety.

Contact safety@uidaho.edu with questions.

Laboratory Decommissioning Checklist: <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/uidaho-responsive/files/division-of-finance-and-administration/division-operations/ehs/lab-safety/uiabdecommission.pdf>

Laboratory Equipment Decontamination Form: <https://www.uidaho.edu/-/media/uidaho-responsive/files/division-of-finance-and-administration/division-operations/ehs/lab-safety/lab-equip-decon-form.pdf>

*Don't be
remembered as
"THAT P.I.!"*

EHS Receives Outstanding Team Award 2024

This award was established in 2005 to honor exceptional teamwork performed by University of Idaho staff members on one-time or unique non-routine projects.

"Over the years, one thing that has been consistently clear about the EHS team is that they facilitate safety, rather than putting up roadblocks and barriers to compliance. They are helpful and nonjudgmental.

This team frequently enables the identification of problems before they occur and solves challenges quickly when they emerge. They are prompt with 24/7 coverage, are professional in all they do, and have genuine concern for the wellbeing of Vandal staff, faculty, students, and visitors to our campuses."

University Excellence Awards Ceremony

May 2, 2024, 3:00pm PT

ICCU Arena

Safety Training Access Updates

In January 2024, online safety training for employees moved into Bridge, and remains in Canvas for students and others that cannot access Bridge. There has been no change to accessing an in-person class. The most current class schedule and additional resources for safety training are on our website. If you need a class that isn't scheduled, please contact EHS for assistance.

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

Bridge@UofI: <https://uidaho.bridgeapp.com/>

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

Safety Training Contact: 208-885-6524 | safety@uidaho.edu



Using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work:

Safeguarding workers from unnecessary risk and danger

With the wide variety of options available, PPE selection can be overwhelming at first. Start by evaluating the job itself for possible hazards, including chemicals, extreme temperatures, flying debris, infectious materials, etc. and then look at each step to select the appropriate options. Following the job hazard analysis process* will help ensure nothing is missed.

- * **HEAD:** Hardhats and helmets are needed when there is a risk of head injury from falling objects, low overhangs, or other overhead hazards. Look for PPE marked “Z89” to indicate it meets ANSI Standard Z89.1.
- * **EYES AND FACE:** Any task that includes a risk of flying particles, molten metal, chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, potentially infectious material, or harmful light radiation requires eye and face protection. The proper selection depends on the work, but all safety glasses, goggles, and face shields should be marked “Z87” to indicate that they meet ANSI Standard Z87.1.
- * **GLOVES:** Many materials are used for gloves, including leather, nitrile, neoprene, and fabric, etc., and each material provides a different type of protection. When selecting gloves, consider the materials that will be handled, nature and duration of contact, grip requirements, need for thermal or chemical protection, and potential for abrasion or other physical damage. Not all gloves are made equally; refer to Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and glove selection charts for guidance.
- * **OTHER CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR:** Protective clothing and footwear minimizes exposure to many hazards. Long pants and closed toe shoes can prevent many injuries across a wide array of jobs. When appropriate for the job, lab coats, coveralls, steel toed boots or other similar items may increase protection against the hazards you personally encounter.

Always check your equipment carefully before every use and replace any items that are damaged.



Safety Concern Report

***Job Hazard Analysis:** <https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/programs/occupational/job-hazard-analysis>

Annual Laboratory Safety Inspections in Progress

Is your lab ready? I have started the inspection process for 2024. My goal is to help you identify items that might not quite meet best practices, and work with you to resolve them in a way that takes your resources into consideration in meeting regulatory requirements within your lab.

During these general inspections, I will be particularly interested in two items this year: chemical inventories and the status of your Laboratory Safety Plan. Additional information and templates for these and other lab safety documents can be found on the EHS Lab Safety webpage: <https://www.uidaho.edu/dfa/division-operations/ehs/programs/lab>

*Drew Pemberton
Lab Safety Officer*



PPE may seem a nuisance at times, but it's a minor one compared to the effect of injury to the body part it should have been protecting.



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.

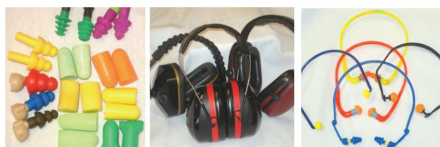
EHS Email	safety@uidaho.edu
EHS Office	208-885-6524
Executive Director	208-885-6524
Fire Safety	208-885-6525
Hazardous Materials	208-885-6279
Industrial Hygiene	208-885-5977
Laboratory Safety	208-885-5031
Occupational Safety	208-885-6297
Radiation Safety	208-885-6524
Safety Training	208-885-6524

PPE Programs and Your Health

Two types of PPE involve annual training and monitoring to ensure your continued health at work. If you need to use these devices, please contact safety@uidaho.edu for additional information.

Respiratory Protection: Employees and students who need to use any kind of respirator (including N-95s) must be enrolled in the Respiratory Protection Program. This program consists of three parts: a medical evaluation, training, and a fit test. These three parts are critical to ensure proper use and protection while using a respirator.

Hearing Protection: Hearing protection devices such as earplugs and earmuffs (or both) should be carefully selected to minimize the risk of hearing



loss. EHS can perform noise surveys to assess exposure levels and help select an appropriate level of hearing protection for your situation.