

Chemistry Safety Notes

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Department Self-Inspections—Results

Brittany Anderson and I have finished up the annual department self-inspections this week. Thank you to all of you for your support of this process and attention to the safety details. To be honest, we didn't find any huge glaring errors or issues. A couple of tidbits:

- The [CUPA self-inspection checklist](#) should be completed no later than Friday, January 13, 2017. The checklist must be completed **annually** as required by the CUPA Self-Audit Program and be made available upon the request of the CUPA inspector. Retain records for at least **three years**.
- Print out the CUPA checklist, fill it out, date and sign it, and include it with your safety documents. This is an annual requirement and a gap in our compliance.
- Corrective actions should be completed by the turn of the year. If that's not possible, please note in the corrective action response how and when you expect to have the item(s) completed.

Great Job—Everyone!

Lab Coats Marking & Labelling

Over 1,100 lab coats have been sent for laundry and re-marking to the new contractor. We'll get another return shipment between Christmas and New Years.

Going forward, you will have to mark lab coats that **DO NOT** have an Aramark bar code in the collar. Using duct tape and a Sharpie marker, make a label with "CHEM-(PI NAME)," stick the tape in the collar, and put the coat in laundry. You should also mark the coat with the PI name on a label in the coat.

If the coat **DOES NOT** have an Aramark label and it goes into laundry without being marked, you **WILL NOT** get it back.

Once it's barcoded to Aramark, you can toss it in laundry as usual. Returned coats will be sorted by PI in the receiving room for pick up. At the moment, our drop off day is Monday.



Lab-Safe VS Explosion-Proof Refrigerators

Laboratories which need to store flammable liquids at reduced temperature must use a lab-safe or flammable liquid storage refrigerator. These refrigerators or freezers are designed with the potentially spark-producing components removed from the interior of the refrigerator. They'll also be labelled as safe for the storage of flammable liquids as shown below.

Explosion-proof refrigerators are intended for use in environments where there is a potentially explosive atmosphere both inside the refrigerator and **outside** the refrigerator, in the room where the refrigerator is located. If an explosion-proof refrigerator is installed, the room needs to be an explosion-proof room, too.



The refrigerator will also have a different plug configuration, as shown to the right.

The only space in the Chemistry complex that's suitable for installation of an explosion-proof refrigerator is the solvent shed.

Be sure you order the correct refrigerator for your application.



What to do if Cal/OSHA turns up?

The recent visit by Cal/OSHA, in response to a custodial employee complaint, is a good time to review what to do in case Cal/OSHA or other regulatory agency turns up.

EH&S is the point of contact for regulatory agencies. If the regulator arrives without EH&S escort, ask them for identification and to wait until EH&S is on-site. Call Debbie (530.304.6728) or EH&S directly at 530.752.1493.

If the regulator asks you questions, please answer truthfully to the best of your knowledge. And answer the question that's asked. If you don't know something, please state that. If the regulator asks you for copies of documents, refer them to EH&S for a formal document request.

[Safety Net #143](#), "Cal/OSHA Inspections," has additional details.



After-Hours Access to Help

If there's ever an emergency in the lab, evacuate, close the door, and call 9-1-1 for help. Fire and Police are available around the clock.

If there's a non-emergency issue where you need help from Facilities Management or Custodial Services, help is available to you as well.

For Facilities Management, call 530.752.1655 and follow the prompts to speak to a human.

For Custodial Services, call 530.752.6110 to dispatch a custodian.

Debbie is also available at 530.304.6728, either voice or text message.

Earbuds or Headphone Use in the Lab

This has been coming up again, so it's probably a good idea to review best practices.

There isn't a campus prohibition against earbuds or headphone use in the lab. That said, it's best practice to keep one ear without audio plugged in. Additionally, it's best practice to keep the volume to a level where you can hear what's going on around you.

If you're working with high hazard materials or on a complicated task, keeping the distraction of music or podcast to a minimum is a good idea.



The 12 DAYS of SAFETY

- Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs 
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets 
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources 
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform 
- Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant 
- If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered 
- Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire 
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use 
- When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places 
- Designate a sober driver 
- When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat 
- Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F 

Happy Holidays.

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If you have made it this far and you want my bourbon ball recipe, please drop me an email and I'll share!

