

Laboratory Safety

It is a goal of the Florida State University Department of Environmental Health and Safety to provide guidance and assistance to enable faculty, staff, students, volunteers and visitors to maintain a safe environment in an atmosphere that empowers individuals to protect themselves and others. It is the responsibility of personnel, students and visitors to seek assistance regarding occupational safety and environmental health issues. The University will promote comprehensive safety programs based on applicable health and safety standards promulgated by Federal and State agencies, including the OSHA regulation, 29 CFR 1910.1450, titled, "Occupational Exposures to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories" and NFPA 45 "Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals," as well as published standards of nationally recognized professional health and safety groups.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) and various campus safety committees help to assure that campus policies and state and federal mandates are followed. EH&S has written the Laboratory Safety Plan to define administrative responsibilities, accepted safety guidelines and standards, proper laboratory facilities, importance of safety equipment, emergency procedures, medical surveillance, exposure monitoring, training and recordkeeping requirements.

The purpose of the Laboratory Safety Plan is to provide a framework for recognizing, evaluating and controlling hazards associated with laboratory operations. Departments may choose to go above and beyond this document and implement additional health and safety protocols. Implementation of the Laboratory Safety Plan depends on the cooperation of department chairs, faculty, laboratory staff, students, EH&S staff and safety committee members. The responsibility for safety and health must be shared by all, and we must work towards meeting the standards set forth in this Laboratory Safety Plan with the common goal of promoting a healthy and safe environment for all employees and students. We recognize that in some situations, proper facilities and equipment are not available for conducting projects. When this is the case, faculty members should consult with EH&S for assistance in evaluating hazards and finding ways to conduct work safely.

Additional Information and Resources

- [Prudent Practices in the Laboratory : Handling and Management of Chemical Hazards, Updated Version \(2011\) The National Academies Press, National Research Council.](#)
- ["The Lab Standard" – OSHA– Occupational Exposure to Chemicals in Laboratories \(29CFR 1910.1450\) – Appendix A & B](#)
- NFPA45, 2004 edition, Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals – contact EH&S for copy.
- NFPA55, 2005 edition, Storage, Use, and Handling of Compressed Gases and Cryogenic Fluids in Portable and Stationary Containers, Cylinders, and Tanks - contact EH&S for copy.
- [EPA Waste Regulations \(40 CFR Part 261-269\)](#)