



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY
كلية الصيدلة الإكلينيكية | College of Clinical Pharmacy

Manual of Laboratory Safety

College of Clinical Pharmacy

Prepared by
College of Clinical Pharmacy Research Laboratories Council

Version 2 (2025)



MANUAL OF LABORATORY SAFETY
COLLEGE OF CLINICAL PHARMACY

Foreword

Ensuring a safe laboratory environment is paramount to the success of both academic and research endeavors. This Laboratory Safety Manual has been developed to provide a comprehensive guide to best practices, regulatory compliance, and institutional policies that govern laboratory safety at the College of Clinical Pharmacy, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (COCP/IAU). This manual serves as a vital resource for faculty, researchers, students, and laboratory personnel by outlining essential safety protocols, hazard mitigation strategies, emergency procedures, and best practices in laboratory operations. By adhering to these guidelines, we aim to create a culture of safety, responsibility, and environmental stewardship. The College of Clinical Pharmacy is committed to maintaining the highest standards of laboratory safety. All laboratory personnel are required to familiarize themselves with the content of this manual and integrate its principles into their daily practices. Regular training, continuous awareness, and strict adherence to safety measures are key to preventing accidents, protecting personnel, and ensuring compliance with national and international safety regulations.

We extend our appreciation to the faculty members, and all contributors who have played a role in compiling and updating this manual. Safety is a shared responsibility, and through collective diligence, we can foster an environment where teaching, research, and innovation thrive safely.

Dr. Mohammed Aldholmi
Lab Council Head
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Preamble

This laboratory safety manual is compiled to be used as a binding document for all personnel working in laboratories to ensure safe work conduct and practices on the College of Clinical Pharmacy/ Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (COCP/IAU) campus.

Procedures and Rules within this Manual are formulated for three reasons:

- 1) To avoid health risks and accidents for our personnel.
- 2) To be in a position to act appropriately in case of emergencies.
- 3) To minimize the environmental burden and risks caused by our work.

The avoidance of safety risks for the personnel at the institutional level requires knowledge of possible hazards in our environment, chemicals, biological agents or radioactivity. In this regard students and personnel of COCP/IAU are required to familiarize themselves with safe practices for applied laboratory operations.

This manual will be amended as various situations might arise and come to our attention.

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Directory of Service and Emergency Providers

Local Emergency Dispatch for fire, personal injury: 998 (Please be aware of the building's requirements to gain access to outside lines.)

Public Ambulance Services: 997

IAU Public Relations and Information

Phone: 00966133333766

IAU Emergency Contact Number

Phone: 013333333

Ext. 33333

IAU Security and Safety

East Campus

Phone: 0133333570

Western Campus

Phone: 0133333594

1. INTRODUCTION

The College of Clinical Pharmacy/Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (COCP/IAU) Laboratory Safety Manual is designed to provide users with general health and safety information. The COCP Division of Environmental Health and Safety has developed this manual to assist in the recognition, evaluation, and control of chemical and physical hazards associated with college laboratory operations. This manual is intended to establish the basic safe operating practices so that investigators, lab technicians, and students may carry out effective teaching and research programs in a safe environment.

This manual is not intended to be a complete listing of laboratory hazards or safe practices. Because of the diverse nature of work being conducted in COCP laboratories, additional procedures or requirements may be necessary. For example, laboratories working with biological agents, radioisotopes, animals or labs generating chemical, biological or radioactive wastes all must adhere to strict policies and procedures.

The majority of the contents of this manual will be inclusive for all COCP laboratories, no matter of their location. Please be advised that specific off campus facilities, both agricultural and non-agricultural research centers must have site-specific safety plans for their research and facilities. The methods of waste disposal and emergency response will vary depending on each facility. Please check with sites for specific information and procedures.

<https://www.iau.edu.sa/en/colleges/college-of-science/administrative-and-financial-affairs-department/laboratory-management-and-safety-unit>

<https://www.iau.edu.sa/en/colleges/college-of-engineering/safety-security>

Definition of Laboratory

A laboratory is defined as, but is not limited to, any location where research or teaching is conducted using hazardous chemicals, biohazardous, or biological materials, radioactive materials, and/or radiation producing devices.

A location used for teaching or research that contains physical hazards may also be considered a laboratory, even if none of the materials listed above are routinely used in the area. Examples include:

- electronics laboratory
- fabrication laboratory
- art studios
- laser laboratory
- magnetic laboratory

A storage room containing the above materials is considered a laboratory if the materials are stored in support of teaching or research.

The following areas are typically NOT considered laboratories under the Laboratory Safety Manual; however, persons working in these areas are required to follow all applicable health and safety regulations:

- shops, mechanical, and custodial areas under the control of Facilities Planning and Management (FP&M)
- departmental storage rooms, offices, meeting rooms, and other ancillary spaces
- computer use areas containing multiple workstations, even if teaching and research is occurring, unless located inside a space that meets the definition of a laboratory
- private offices, unless contiguous with or in a space that meets the definition of a laboratory

2. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Individual laboratory workers are responsible for their own safety and the safety of their co-workers and visitors to their laboratories. All staff, students and volunteers must demonstrate this responsibility in their actions and attitudes. It will be each laboratory worker's responsibility to wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) assigned to them, adhere to prescribed safety rules and regulations, and to know and follow all emergency procedures. Lab staff must pre-plan their work to ensure their safety and the safety of those individuals who work around them.

The principal investigator (PI), laboratory supervisor or manager has the responsibility for controlling hazards in her/his laboratory. This shall include:

1. Completing a hazard assessment for all procedures
2. Instructing laboratory personnel on potential hazards
3. Correcting work errors and dangerous conditions
4. Encouraging a positive attitude towards safety
5. Selecting the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensuring that it is worn
6. Maintaining all relevant compliance records and programs
7. Investigating the circumstances surrounding a laboratory accident and taking steps to avoid recurrence

The research department shall be responsible for supporting the PI and research staff with all the resources necessary to ensure safety compliance. This will include providing training to PI and staff members and allowing for time away from work for training. The research department will be responsible for, or assign a responsible party to control, maintain and supervise common use laboratories.

Laboratory Management and Safety Unit shall be responsible for monitoring compliance and implementation of all safety and environmental regulations, for all main campus and off campus facilities. This will include, but is not limited to, regulation interpretation, implementation of programs, planning reviews, facility surveys, and training and educational services. Laboratory Management and Safety Unit shall have enforcement authority when dealing with unsafe or illegal situations.

3. LABORATORY SAFETY GUIDELINES

Each laboratory at the college is unique, by virtue of the research being performed, the equipment in use, and the physical layout of the lab or utilization of space. Regardless of the characteristics, teaching and research laboratories at the College of Clinical Pharmacy must adhere to the basic safety policies outlined in this manual.

An annual Laboratory Safety Survey is performed by Laboratory Management and Safety Unit to verify compliance with the policies set out in this manual as well as compliance with safety programs pertinent to the type of research conducted and agents used in the lab. If a safety issue is observed the surveyor will offer recommendations to aid the staff in correcting the issues.

A. Hazard Awareness

It is the responsibility of the PI and lab staff to strive for a safe working environment in their laboratory. Observed hazards or potential hazards must be identified and corrected immediately.

Hazard Identification

Notice Boards

A notice board posted at all of the entrances to the lab will identify the categories of potentially hazardous materials that may be found in the lab at any given time and contact persons in case of emergency.

Hazard warning stickers identify the potential chemical, biological or physical hazards that may be in the laboratory. These stickers can be added or removed as needed for the changes in the laboratory inventory.

The Emergency Call List identifies the individuals to contact in case of an emergency. The call list must have the home phone numbers of at least two individuals who can provide information about the lab to the University Laboratory Management and Safety Unit or other emergency responders. If you do not wish to have home phone numbers posted at the lab, you may complete a privacy form. Both the Emergency Call List and the privacy form will need to be updated as needed when lab staff changes. This form is available from Safety & Security department at the lab's request.

Labeling

The manufacturer's label will provide the initial information on the handling of any substance. Directions found on the label must be followed. All bottles and chemical containers must be labeled, including, flasks, beakers, etc. If abbreviations are used, a reference list of the abbreviations must be posted in the lab.

Chemical Inventories

A complete inventory of all chemicals at the worksite is required to be maintained at all times. An inventory must be carried out and updated at least annually to cross check against the previous inventory, cull out unused or expired chemicals, and check the condition of caps, bottles and labels. This inventory must be available for lab staff, University Laboratory Management and Safety Unit.

Health and Hygiene

Clothing and Footwear

Full coverage shoes constructed of sturdy material shall be worn at all times. Sandals, clogs, and open-toed shoes are not allowed in laboratories. Shorts and t-shirts are allowed as long as lab coats are worn when using chemical, biologicals, radio-actives and animals. Halter tops, bare mid-drifts and Capri pants should not be worn. Clothing that is extremely loose or tight fitting should be avoided. Overly tight clothes, such as leggings and body suits are not recommended, as any spilled material will be held next to the skin by these garments. Overly loose clothing, long necklaces, ties, or scarves can get caught in equipment or knock over work materials. Long hair should be tied back so it does not come in contact with chemicals, biological or radiological substances or become entangled in equipment. Rings must be removed if working on equipment with moving parts or emersion of gloved hands in concentrated solutions.

Food and Drink

Food and drink should not be stored or consumed in areas where chemical, biological or radioactive substances are being used or stored. Break rooms or lunchrooms must be used where available. Food and drink may only be consumed in prescribed and clearly designated areas of the lab's office area, away from lab equipment and potentially contaminated airflow. Transport of samples and chemicals are not permitted through the designated area. Equipment (e.g. microwaves), glassware or utensils that have been used for laboratory operations should never be

utilized to prepare or consume food. Laboratory refrigerators and cold rooms may not be used for the storage of foods. Separate, clearly labeled appliances must be used. Sinks and drain boards used for washing food utensils should not be used for research purposes. Ice made in ice machines used to provide lab ice cannot be used for human consumption

Cross Contamination Prevention

Personal protective equipment (gloves, lab coats, etc.) is not permitted in public areas of the building such as restrooms, offices, and cafeterias. In an effort to eliminate possible exposure or contamination of building fixtures and equipment, gloves shall be removed when leaving the lab. To transfer specimens or chemicals from one lab to another use one gloved hand to handle the cart or container. The ungloved hand can be used to open doors, push elevator buttons, etc.

When working with chemical, biological or radioactive substances hands shall be washed often, especially after gloves have been removed and before leaving the lab. Lip balm, cosmetics, or contact lenses should not be applied or handled in the lab. Solutions must not be pipette or siphoned by mouth. Only mechanical pipette and siphoning aids will be used.

Ergonomics

Laboratory workers are at risk for repetitive motion injuries during routine laboratory procedures such as pipetting, working at microscopes and hoods, operating microtomes, using cell counters and video display terminals. By becoming familiar with how to control laboratory ergonomic risk factors, you can improve your comfort and productivity while lowering chances for occupational injuries.

Physical Hazards and Housekeeping

Physical hazards and poor housekeeping practices may put staff and visitors at risk of injury. Lab staff must correct or report any hazards found in the lab. Physical hazards or housekeeping issues observed outside of the lab should be reported to the appropriate maintenance division.

Trip hazards and Spills

Trip hazards such as electrical or computer cords across floors, excess storage in walkways, etc. must be minimized. Irregular, bumpy or loose flooring should be reported to the maintenance department. Aisles, hallways and stairways must not be used for storage areas. Avoid excessive overhead storage. Shelves must be of strong construction, leveled, and if possible, attached to walls or cabinets so they do not tip. Do not overload shelves.

Spills must be attended to immediately. Clean-ups should follow the completion of any operation or be done at the end of the day.

Lab Equipment

Refrigerators and freezers must be level to prevent samples and solutions from spilling when their doors are opened. Sharp edges or corners on equipment should be protected or equipment relocated to minimize injury. Microtome blades or other sharp objects must be removed from equipment or covered with a protective guard when not in use. Belt and pulley systems, such as vacuum pumps, or any other pinch points must be covered by a protective guarding.

Shared and Common Use Labs

The initial responsibility for housekeeping and the minimization of physical hazards and injuries in any shared lab or support space is the duty of all staff using the lab. It is imperative that all users clean up after themselves.

Electrical Safety

The electrical demand in laboratories has grown tremendously since most buildings and labs were designed. It is imperative that the electrical systems in these buildings are not abused or overloaded. Lab staff cannot modify, install or remove electrical systems.

Electrical Cords

Electrical cords and plugs must be inspected routinely to identify cracked insulation or broken plugs. Any equipment found with damaged cords or plugs must be removed from service until it is repaired. Wrapping broken insulation with electrical tape is not an acceptable repair method. Electrical cords cannot be run across floors, under rugs, through walls, doors, windows, over ceiling tile or around sharp edges or corners where they can be damaged or cannot be inspected for damage.

Extension cords

Extension cords are intended only for temporary use with portable equipment. Permanent use of extension cords is prohibited. Shop made cords with receptacle boxes may not be used. The use of multi plug electrical boxes is acceptable if they have an internal fuse, but these may not be plugged into one another in series. These should be attached to a solid surface like a wall or table.

Surge Protection

The use of surge protection is recommended for all electrical equipment in all labs. These should have internal fuses and cannot be plugged into one another in series.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)

GFCIs should be installed on outlets located near wet areas such sinks, showers, washing areas, etc. GFCI is a fast-acting device that interrupts current to protect against shocks and electrocution. Freezers, refrigerators, and other important lab equipment that require continuous power should not be plugged into GFCI outlets. GFCIs sense very small current leakages to ground and will shut off the electricity to that outlet.

Sharps

Sharps (needles, broken glass, scalpels, razor blades, etc.) must not be disposed of in the regular waste stream. Needles and scalpels must be placed in red plastic “sharps” boxes and disposed of as biomedical waste, no matter if they are contaminated with a biological substance or not. Syringes must be disposed of in the red sharps box for biomedical waste disposal whether or not they are contaminated. Broken glass must be placed in a rigid puncture resistant container.

Uncapped needles must not be left where someone may sustain a needle stick. Used needles cannot be recapped, broken, bent or sheared. If the needle and syringe are to be used again, it should be placed in a wide mouth jar, beaker, or otherwise secured so that staff using the area are protected from a needle stick injury. New needles (and syringes) should be stored in a secure cabinet.

Razor blades, microtome blades and other objects that may puncture trash bags or boxes, no matter if they are contaminated or not, must be disposed of into sharps boxes. Glassware disposal will vary depending on the building where it is generated. Biologically contaminated sharps must be properly inactivated before disposal.

Working Alone

Hazardous experiments shall not be performed alone in a laboratory. Persons working alone shall make arrangements with other persons in the building. It is vitally important not to cover or black out lab door windows so the lab may be observed.

Unattended Operations

Operations and experiments that continue unattended for several hours or overnight must be pre-approved by the PI or laboratory supervisor. Plans should be made to eliminate the risk of

hazards in the event of a failure in power, water, gas or other service. Water cannot be left running. Do not cover or black out lab door windows. Room lights should be left on and a notice placed on the lab door with the name and number of the researcher running the experiment and any pertinent information.

Laboratory Security

Laboratories must be locked if no one is in the lab. Acute toxins, select agents, controlled substances and radioisotopes must be appropriately secured. Do not hesitate to politely question anyone who does not belong in the area. If asked, it is requested that you decline to answer any questions about the contents or research being performed in the lab or the facility.

Visitors

1. Visitors must be accompany by lab staff
2. Must be made aware of any potential hazards they may encounter in the lab.
3. Wear the correct personal protective equipment for the hazards present in the lab, no matter if they are visitors or maintenance workers, no matter how long they will be in the lab.
4. Abide by laboratory regulations for access and control of hazards.
5. Pets are not allowed in labs. Only certified service animals may be allowed into college buildings.

B. Safety Equipment

Maintain all safety-related equipment and information clearly labeled and stored in the same area so it can be easily found in an emergency.

First Aid Kits

A first aid kit should be located in a clearly visible place in each laboratory. First aid kits are available for ordering through laboratory or safety equipment supplier. Additional first aid items may be required depending on the chemicals used in the lab.

Spill Kits

COCP/IAU policy requires all labs to maintain spill control materials in the event of a liquid chemical release. Commercial spill kits including instructions, absorbents, neutralizers, and protective equipment can be purchased through a commercial laboratory supply company. A large centrally located spill kit can be used for a suite of labs under the same PI, provided it is

placed near the area(s) with the highest potential for spills and is always available to all staff working in all of the suite's labs.

Preplanning

Chemical spills can be handled effectively if preplanning has been conducted. Individuals should become familiar with, and trained in proper cleanup procedures before a spill occurs. This preplanning should include consideration of:

1. Likely location(s) of a spill
2. Estimated quantities that may be released
3. Chemical and physical properties of the material (e.g. physical state, vapor pressure, and air or water reactivity)
4. Potential health hazards of the spilled material
5. Personal protective equipment that will be needed
6. Type of spill absorbents that will be required (see below)

A chemical spill kit can be assembled and stored in a high-density polyethylene bucket (the bucket can be used for collection of the chemical and absorbent in the event of a spill). Label the spill kit clearly. The following list of items to include in the spill kit is offered as a general guideline:

1. Neutralizing agents such as sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, or sodium bisulfate for acid spills.
2. Inert clay absorbents such as vermiculite or cat litter can be used for most types of chemicals.
3. Inert absorbent pads and pillows can be purchased from a laboratory supply company.
4. Polypropylene absorbents must be used for hydrofluoric acid spills (expanded silicate absorbents may react with hydrofluoric acid). Polypropylene absorbents can be used for most other chemical spills as well. These can be purchased from a commercial laboratory supply company. The calcium Gluconate antidote will also need to be kept available in each lab.
5. A mercury spill kit (or vacuum line, flask, needle-nose pipette, and trap) for mercury spills and broken mercury thermometers.
6. Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, goggles, aprons, etc.) to wear during the cleanup.
7. Hazardous Waste labels, bags, and small scoop or shovel (for clay absorbents).

Paper towels, rags or sponges are not recommended for the reason that some chemicals (strong oxidizers) may ignite upon contact. Also, they are inadequate for large spills, as they do not absorb and reduce vapors as well as clay or commercial absorbents.

Fire Extinguishers and Fire Alarms

Each laboratory must have unobstructed access to at least one multipurpose fire extinguisher located at or near the exit. During development of an Emergency Action Plan, personnel must identify fire extinguisher locations and determine if available extinguishers are appropriate for planned laboratory activities. Ensure that fire extinguisher locations are marked with a red/white “fire extinguisher” sign posted at eye level above the device. Monthly fire extinguisher inspections are required. Annual extinguisher testing is performed by department of Safety & Security. Fire Safety and Extinguisher Training are required for all laboratory personnel, hands-on should be done the first time.

If a fire alarm sounds in the lab consider it a fire situation and act accordingly. Shut down any processes and close all fume hood sashes. Leave the building and report to the designated rally point for a head count.

Safety Showers and Eyewash Stations

Every laboratory worker should know the location and operation of the safety shower and eyewash. All safety showers and eyewash stations must be clearly identified by signs. In hallways, signs must be visible from all directions of travel. The access to the eyewash and safety showers must be clear at all times. There must be at least a 4 x 4 foot clear floor area directly beneath the unit.

The appropriate maintenance staff will periodically test all eyewash stations and safety showers. Each unit will be tagged to identify the date of the last test. Lab staff should flush out eyewashes weekly.

C. Engineering Controls and Work Practices

The hierarchy of engineering controls, then enacted work practices and finally the use of personal protective equipment are to be employed to keep staff safe from chemical or biological exposure. Engineering controls isolate or remove a hazard from the workplace and are considered the first line of defense against health hazards in the lab. The ventilation system controlling the air flow in the lab, fume hoods, biological safety cabinets, glove boxes, local exhaust, shielding, are some of the more commonly used engineering controls in a lab setting. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to determine the need and type of engineering controls required for the lab.

D. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The department or laboratory shall provide PPE to each staff member. The PI or laboratory supervisor must determine the appropriate PPE needed for procedures in the lab. It will be the responsibility of each staff member to use the PPE correctly and to keep it clean and in good repair.

Gloves

Protective gloves shall be worn when working with hazardous materials or with materials of unknown toxicity. No glove will provide universal protection from all chemicals. Gloves must be selected on the basis of the material being handled and their suitability for the particular laboratory operation. In cases of latex sensitivity, alternative gloves must be provided.

A glove compatibility chart must be consulted to ensure the proper glove selection. Gloves must not be worn outside of the lab. If a compound must be transported to another location, use a secondary container and wear one glove on the hand holding the container. Use the un-gloved hand to open doors, push elevator buttons, etc.

Eye Protection

Eye protection shall be worn at all times when working with chemical, biological or radiological substances. Safety glasses must have side shields. Ordinary prescription glasses will not provide adequate protection from injury to the eyes. Safety goggles or face shields shall be utilized where

there is a possibility of splashing chemicals, violent reactions or flying particles. Specific goggles shall be worn for protection against laser hazards, ultraviolet or other intense light sources.

Contact lenses are not to be worn in the work areas of any chemical, biological or radiological laboratories. If they are required for medical reasons, safety goggles must be worn. Standard safety glasses or face shields will not provide adequate protection.

Lab Coats

Laboratory coats or gowns will need to be worn over street clothes or exposed skin when chemical, biological or radiological substances are being used. Lab coats should be buttoned and be long enough to cover the wearer to below the knees. Lab coats should not be removed from the lab area.

E. Emergency Procedures

Medical Emergencies

1. Remain calm.
2. Initiate lifesaving measures as needed.
3. Summon medical help.
4. Do not move any injured person unless absolutely necessary.
5. Keep the injured person warm.

In all cases of a medical emergency or injury, it is advised that the victim seek medical attention from the campus Primary Health Care Center, or the emergency care provider in your area. Escort the victim to the facility; do not let them go alone.

First Aid

Provide on-site first aid treatment to stop bleeding, cool burns or, the event of chemical splash, by flushing with water at a safety shower or eyewash.

Chemical Splashes

1. **Over a large area of the body-** Quickly remove all contaminated clothing while under the safety shower. Immediately flood the exposed areas with water for at least 15 minutes; resume if

pain returns. Wash off chemicals by using a mild detergent soap and water; do not use neutralizing chemicals or salves.

2. **On a confined area of the skin-** Immediately flush with cold water for at least 15 minutes and wash by using a mild detergent or soap and water. Remove any jewelry in the affected area. If a delayed action of the chemical is possible (e.g. phenol, hydrofluoric acid, methyl and ethyl bromides) obtain medical attention promptly.

3. **Eyes-**Immediately wash the eye and inner surface of the eyelid with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes. Check for and remove any contact lenses if possible without causing further injury. Hold the eye open to wash thoroughly behind the eyelids. Have injured worker move eye side-to-side and up and down during rinsing. Obtain medical attention immediately after rinsing.

4. **Hydrofluoric burns-** the area should be rinsed immediately with running water for 2-5 minutes. A calcium gluconate compound must be applied to the area. Look for medical treatment immediately.

5. Phenol has the ability to penetrate the skin causing severe burns. It will anesthetize the area so little or no pain may be felt. In case of exposure- flush with water immediately. Seek medical attention immediately. Substances such as polyethylene glycol may be used to neutralize and treat the burn in the hospital. Contaminated clothing should be disposed of and not saved.

6. **Cryogen or dry ice burns (frostbite):** Flood or soak with tepid water-do not use hot water. Look for medical attention.

Ingestion of a toxin

Dilute the poison by having the victim drink large amounts of water (do not give liquids to an unconscious or convulsing victim). Attempt to learn what the ingested substance was. Obtain medical treatment immediately. Save the label or container for transportation with the victim to the medical facility.

Inhalation of Chemical Fumes

Take the individual to fresh air, seek medical assistance immediately, and provide artificial respiration as needed.

Fire

If clothing is on fire, help the individual to the floor and roll him/her around to smother the flames, or if a safety shower is immediately available, douse the person with water. Seek medical attention.

*In case of a fire emergency- remember the acronym **R*A*C*E***

R- Rescue- Without entering a hazardous situation or area rescue and remove all individuals from the area.

A- Alarm- Activate alarms/alert occupants in the building

C- Confine- all doors, windows and access to the affected area must be closed to confine spread of the fire and smoke. All access must then be restricted to emergency response personnel only.

E- Extinguish - attempt to extinguish the fire only if all of the following criteria can or have been met:

1. Building alarm has been activated.
2. Training has been received on how to use a fire extinguisher.
3. The proper extinguisher is available.
4. The fire has not spread from its point of origin.
5. The fire is still small enough to be handled by the fire extinguisher to be used.
6. The fire can be fought with your back to the exit to ensure there is a means of escape in the event that the attempt to extinguish the fire fails.
7. If the fire is not extinguished after using one fire extinguisher, close all doors and leave the building.

Chemical Spills

Laboratory staff members should clean up only small incidental spills that constitute a minimum hazard. Large chemical spills will be handled by the department of Safety & security. All lab staff should become aware of procedures to follow and precautions to take for the chemicals they are using.

Incidental Chemical Spills

1. Alert personnel in the immediate area.
2. Avoid breathing vapors and try to determine what has spilled.
3. Turn off ignition sources in the immediate area.
4. If someone has been splashed with chemical, immediately flush the affected area with copious amount of water for at least 15 minutes
5. Wear protective equipment including safety goggles, disposable gloves, shoe covers, and long-sleeve lab coat.

6. Use a commercial kit to pick-up spilled materials. Confine the spill to a small area by diking the perimeter of the spill first, continuing towards the center.
7. Place the used absorbent in a plastic bag or bucket and label it with a Hazardous Waste label. Include it in the next hazardous waste pickup.
8. Clean area with water.
9. For acids or base spills: Neutralizing these spills may release hazardous fumes. If you are unsure of the resulting reaction, use an inert absorbent.
10. For alkali metals: Smother the spill with a special, dry powder extinguisher.

Large Chemical Spill/Release

1. Avoid breathing vapors.
2. Quickly identify the spilled material if it can be done safely.
3. If the spill involves a flammable liquid, turn off all ignition sources if it can be done safely.
4. Immediately evacuate the area, closing all doors.
5. If someone has been splashed with the chemical, immediately flush the affected area with copious amounts of water for at least 15 minutes
6. Keep all personnel away from the spill area until Safety/Emergency personnel arrive to evaluate and control the situation. Place a sign at all doors to the spill location advising personnel **not** to enter the room.
7. Personnel most knowledgeable about the spilled material should be available to provide information to Safety/Emergency personnel.

Emergency Procedures

Immediately request emergency response assistance through the University Safety & security Department under any one of the following circumstances:

1. The release requires immediate attention because of imminent danger;
2. The release requires evacuation/control of employees beyond the immediate spill area (e.g. any toxic material spill in a hallway or other public area)
3. The release poses a serious threat of fire or explosion;
4. The release may cause high levels of exposure to toxic substances that are uncontained;
5. The situation is unclear or important information is lacking.

Exposure Monitoring

Personnel monitoring will be performed if there is reason to believe that the exposure level of any chemical may exceed 50% of the action level, the Ceiling level, or the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL). Monitoring will be performed by safety and security staff or a designee approved by the department of Safety and Security. Results of the monitoring will be discussed with the affected employee(s).

Accident Reports

In the event of a laboratory accident, the laboratory supervisor should complete an “Occupational Injury Investigation Report” and a First Report of Injury or Illness form with the assistance of the injured employee. Once completed, the report should be forwarded to the Workers’ Compensation Office.

Follow-up Investigations

Department of Safety & Security will perform follow-up investigations for all exposures and injuries. Staff will be interviewed to ascertain the circumstances involved with the incident.

F. Laboratory Equipment

The types of equipment and instrumentation used in university lab settings are as diverse as the various research performed. Although each will have its own specific safety requirements, there are some general guidelines to follow whenever operating any lab equipment and instrumentation:

1. Always keep the manufacturer’s operating manual with the instrument.
2. Follow recommended maintenance procedures outlined in the manual.
3. New operators should be trained by qualified lab personnel and familiarize themselves with the operating manual, including all pertinent safety information.
4. Never remove hazard-warning labels from an instrument.
5. Ensure that all equipment is grounded.
6. Have a certified technician perform or oversee repairs.
7. Disconnect equipment from the power-source whenever conducting maintenance on the instrument.

8. If the equipment is used near any source of water, ensure that it is plugged into an outlet equipped with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). Note: do not plug continuous running equipment such as freezers, into GFCI outlets.
9. If compressed gases are used with the instrument, follow the IAU Compressed Gas Rules.
10. Be aware of, and be trained in the unique hazards of your instrument. (i.e.: lasers, UV light, radiation sources, etc.)
11. Use protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer when using the instrument. (i.e.: hearing protection, face shield, etc.)

Refrigerators, Freezers, and Cold Rooms

Refrigeration systems, whether it is an appliance or building system, may not be modified or repaired by laboratory staff. Appropriate PPD personnel or certified refrigeration mechanic should be contacted to work on these systems. The refrigerant gas must be collected and recycled and must not be released to the environment.

Labeling

Every refrigerator, freezer and cold room must be clearly labeled to indicate whether it is suitable for storage of flammables, biological or radiological materials. Household refrigerators and freezers must be labeled “Danger-Do not put flammable liquids in this refrigerator/freezer;” food refrigerators and freezers must be labeled “Food only”.

Flammable Storage Units

Household refrigerators and freezers are not equipped with electrical-safe controls and shall not be used to store flammable liquids. The flammable storage refrigerator/freezer is constructed with its controls mounted outside the storage compartment. This type of refrigerator is suitable for storing flammable liquids and is labeled by the manufacturer as such.

Explosion Proof Units

The explosion-proof refrigerator/freezer also has its controls mounted on the outside, but, in addition, the controls are of an explosion-proof design. This type of refrigerator/freezer is required in rooms or areas with potentially explosive atmospheres. The use and storage of flammable liquids in cold rooms should be minimized. These rooms are not fire rated and are similar to a confined space, as they are not vented with fresh air.

Centrifuges

Each operator must be trained on proper operating procedures. The use of centrifuges requires that they be balanced to prevent damage to the unit the area or cause an injury to the operator. Any centrifuge that makes noise or vibrates must be stopped immediately and checked for balancing of the rotor. A log should be kept detailing operation for centrifuges and rotors.

1. Label centrifuges used for biohazards or radioisotopes.
2. Check the rotor for rough spots, pitting, and discoloration. If discovered, check with the manufacturer before using. Use professional rotor inspection services as required or recommended by the manufacturer.
3. Ultra centrifuge rotors require a log of rotor use and inspection. Damaged rotors must be removed from service immediately.

Vacuum Systems

Vacuum systems should not be used for any reason other than to pull vacuum on equipment. Do not use in-house plumbed or secondary vacuum pumps to remove water, dust, or other materials, even if there is a trapping reservoir to collect the material.

All vacuum systems should be used with a secondary containment trap. Cold traps must be in place when flammable vapors are extracted by vacuum. It is strongly recommended that flow restrictors be used in line to minimize solvent loss.

A hydrophobic in-line filter should be placed between the last collection vessel and the vacuum port in systems used for aspirating liquids. This is recommended for both plumbed vacuum lines and for portable vacuum pumps. This filter will stop debris or liquid from entering the system and help to prevent contamination or degradation of the vacuum system.

Heating Equipment

Steam-heated devices shall be used rather than electrically heated devices or Bunsen Burners whenever possible. Steam-heated devices do not present shock or spark hazards and can be used with assurance that their temperature will not rise beyond 100°C.

Electrical Heating Devices

Only hot plates with heating elements enclosed in a glass, ceramic, or insulated case should be used in laboratories. All electrical equipment must be IAU approved.

Heating mantles should be checked before each use for broken insulation and to assure that no water or other chemicals have been spilled into the mantle. Laboratory workers should be careful not to turn a variable transformer so high as to exceed the input voltage recommended for the mantle by the manufacturer.

Oil baths should always be monitored via a thermometer or other device to ensure that their temperature does not exceed the flash point of the oil being used. Smoke caused by the high temperature decomposition of the oil or of organic materials in the oil represents an inhalation hazard. Laboratory workers using an oil bath should guard against the possibility that water or another volatile substance could fall into the hot bath. Such an accident can splatter hot oil over a wide area. The oil bath should be supported on a solid surface.

Gas Burners

Where burners are used, distribute the heat with a wire gauze pad. Tubing for the gas should be checked to ensure it is properly attached, with clamps and is not cracked. Burners should not be used in fume hoods or biological safety cabinets, as the continual high volume airflow through these units may extinguish the flame and go unnoticed. Burners must not be left on when not in use.

Cooling Equipment

Running tap water should not be used for cooling of any experiment. Special care should be taken if dry ice or a cryogenic liquid, such as liquid nitrogen or helium is used in a cooling system.

Glassware and Hoses

Careful handling and storage procedures should be used to avoid damaging glassware. All glassware should be inspected prior to use. Damaged items should be discarded or repaired.

Prior to use, all tubing and connections must be inspected. Replace cracked or split tubing before use. Ensure that all connections are secured, and the use hose clamps are required.

Hand protection should be utilized when inserting glass tubing into stoppers or when placing rubber tubing on glass hose connections. Tubing should be fire polished or filed smooth and lubricated. A cloth should be wrapped around the glass. Hands should be held close together and the glass inserted with a slight twisting motion, avoiding excessive pressure.

Disposal of Used Equipment

All laboratory equipment used in conjunction with chemical, biological or radioactive substances must be certified that it is safe for disposal or storage prior to its removal from the lab. The department or lab will be responsible for the decontamination and/or disinfection of the equipment, draining all liquids and oils, and certifying that these procedures have been done properly.

- All equipment must be cleaned by the lab staff prior to the initiating the disposal process.
- Refrigerants (Freon) must be removed from any equipment prior to disposal. This may include refrigerators, freezers, centrifuges, etc

G. Utility Systems

Laboratory staff may not perform any modifications of any utility systems in buildings or labs. No part of the ventilation, electrical, plumbing (water and gas) may be tapped into, repaired, removed added or tampered with in any way by anyone. If work needs to be done on these systems, please submit a work order.

If there are any concerns about the electrical system, equipment or need to upgrade it within a lab area, contact the appropriate Physical Plant Division (PPD) to assess the requirements and concerns.

Flexible tubing, garden hoses and PVC piping are not acceptable as plumbing alternatives, including, but not limited to: tap, hot, chilled, waste water systems, steam lines, etc. in college building. Flexible tubing for compressed laboratory gases or vacuum lines may be used after the cylinder's regulator or the stopcock, but the length of the tubing must be minimized. It cannot be run across the lab, through doors or over the ceiling tiles.

Fume Hoods and Ventilation Systems

Ventilation systems for laboratories are normally designed to provide 6 - 12 air changes per hour at a slightly negative pressure relative to hallways and office space. It is important to keep lab doors and windows closed as much as possible for proper pressure balance and ventilation of the lab.

Chemical fume hoods are intended to remove vapors, gases and dusts of toxic, flammable, corrosive or otherwise dangerous materials. It is important for lab staff to understand how the

chemical fume hood in the lab functions. All laboratory personnel must be trained in proper use of fume hoods.

Proper Use of Fume Hoods

With the sash lowered to the indicated level for proper airflow, laboratory fume hoods can also afford workers protection from such hazards as chemical splashes or sprays and fires. To set the sash at the indicated level, measure from the floor of the hood, as the opening should include the area under the airfoil. If the hood's low airflow alarm is sounding the lab staff must immediately end their work in the hood, close all chemical containers and close the sash. Contact the appropriate maintenance department to have the ventilation system repaired. Do not mute, ignore or disconnect any fume hood alarm.

Fume Hood Repairs

If a hood needs to be repaired, the appropriate maintenance group will not perform any work unless a Fume Hood Repair Protocol is filed by department of Safety & Security. It will be the responsibility of the lab staff to stop all work in the hood that is not functioning properly, call in the work order, clear the hood of chemicals or equipment and clean the hood of any potential contamination.

Plumbing Systems

Tap water will not be left flowing for prolonged experiments for longer than 30 minutes or left unattended. A refrigerated re-circulating system must be used to cool experiments or equipment to minimize potential damage from leaks and flooding. The use of these closed loop systems is required to minimize the wasting of this valuable resource.

Isolated or unused sinks and floor drains may be a source of foul odors if the traps dry out. Please ensure that all sinks have had water periodically run into them to fill the trap. If a sink is in an isolated area and will not be used for some time, please contact PPD to have it sealed or have the trap filled with mineral oil. Mineral oil will not evaporate and is environmentally safe. College buildings have plumbed gases, such as natural gas, air or nitrogen. These systems are regulated within the building and do not need additional regulators attached prior to use. All other use of these systems would be identical to the use of compressed gas cylinders: all hoses leading from the stopcock to the use areas need to be clamped, all those connections should be leak tested.

4. CHEMICAL HANDLING AND PROCESSES

A. Transporting Chemicals

Individuals transporting chemicals must be familiar with the material's hazards and know what to do in the event of a release or spill. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are a good source for this information. Materials that are unstable, explosive, or extremely or acutely hazardous should not be moved before contacting safety and security.

Within the lab

1. Always use appropriate chemical resistant gloves and eye protection.
2. Large containers or especially hazardous chemicals should be carried in a secondary container
3. Never move visibly degrading chemicals and containers. Report these to your lab supervisor or PI.
4. Be aware of your surroundings: potential trip hazards, other workers, etc.

From Lab to Lab

1. Containers and bottles must be labeled.
2. Spill absorbent materials and MSDS for the chemicals must be available at all times.
3. When chemicals are carried, they should be placed in a secondary container such as an acid-carrying bucket, or other appropriate container to protect against breakage and spillage.
4. Use sturdy carts for transporting multiple, large, or heavy containers; the cart should have wheels large enough to negotiate uneven surfaces without tipping or stopping suddenly.
5. Carts used for secondary containment must have a liquid-tight tray with lips on four sides.
6. The chemicals should not be transported during busy times, such as during class changes, lunch break, etc.

7. Hazardous chemicals should be transported on freight elevators, wherever possible to avoid exposure to persons on passenger elevators.
8. Remove gloves to open doors and push elevator buttons, etc.
9. Never leave chemicals unattended.

B. Chemical Storage and Compatibility

General Rules for Chemical Storage

1. Do not store liquid chemicals above shoulder height.
2. Flammable chemicals in amounts exceeding 10 gallons must be stored in flammable storage cabinets or safety containers.
3. Bottles may not be stored on the floor unless they are contained in tubs or other secondary containment.
4. Excessive chemical storage in hoods is not acceptable; this practice interferes with the airflow in the hood and reduces the available workspace.
5. Chemical waste shall be placed at the designated accumulation area, in appropriate receptacles, properly labeled and segregated by hazard class.

Solid or Powdered Chemicals

Most solid chemicals may be shelved alphabetically with the following exceptions:

- Ensure that phenol crystals are separated from oxidizers
- Cyanide compounds must not be stored near acids. (Accidental mixing may release cyanide gas.)
- Flammable solids should be stored segregated from other solids or in Flammable Storage Cabinets.

- Powdered metals should be stored as directed on the bottle label or MSDS. Storage of some metals may depend on the conditions in which they are packed (e.g., under a flammable solvent), which may require storage in flammable storage cabinets.

Liquid Chemicals

All liquid chemicals must be segregated by hazard classification and stored only with compatible substances. The following categories of liquid chemicals should be segregated from other categories.

1. Acids: Organic acids should be kept separate from inorganic (mineral) acids. For example, store acetic and formic acids separate from hydrochloric and sulfuric acids.
2. Bases: May react violently with acids, oxidizers or flammables.
3. Oxidizers: Keep away from acids, bases, organics and metals; keep cool. Examples of strong oxidizers: Perchloric acid, nitric acid.
4. Flammable liquids: The excess over 10 gallons in any workspace must be stored in flammable storage cabinets or in safety containers. Keep separate from acids, bases, and oxidizers.
5. Toxic or poisonous liquids: Must be segregated and stored separately, as they could be released and/or intensified with reactions to the other chemicals. Examples of this may be cyanide solutions. Other chemicals, such as formaldehyde, should be stored in plastic bottles at the lowest shelf or storage space. This will minimize the potential for spillage.
6. Mercury: Must be stored in non-breakable secondary containers and kept on a bottom shelf of a closed cabinet.
7. Non-hazardous/inert liquids- May be stored with any other category, but it is recommended that they also be segregated for consistency.
8. Accumulated chemical waste: Liquid chemical waste must be stored by compatibility.

C. Flammable Chemicals

Flammable substances are the most commonly stored hazardous materials in the laboratory. The ability to vaporize, ignite, burn or explode varies with the specific type or class of substance.

An indicator of the flammability of a solvent is its flash point, or the lowest temperature at which a liquid gives off vapor in sufficient concentration to form an ignitable mixture with air. Flammable liquids have flash points below 100°F (37.8°C); Combustible liquids have flash points between 100°F (37.8°C) and 210°F (93.3°C). This information is usually available on the label affixed to the chemical container or on the MSDS.

The most hazardous flammable liquids are those that have flash points at room temperature or lower, so extra care in storing and using these must be taken.

For a fire to occur, three conditions must exist: a concentration of flammable vapor that is within the flammable limits of the substance, air and, a source of ignition. Elimination of any one of these three will prevent the start of fire. Because spillage of a flammable liquid is always a possibility, strict control of ignition sources is mandatory.

When flammable materials are being used in a laboratory, close attention should be given to all potential sources of ignition. The vapors of many flammable liquids are heavier than air and capable of traveling considerable distances. This possibility should be recognized, and special notes should be taken to ensure that all possible ignition sources are eliminated.

Handling Flammables

The following guidelines should be observed in handling flammable liquids:

1. Flammable liquids should be handled only in areas free of ignition sources.
2. 'No Smoking' signs should be posted and obeyed when flammable liquids are handled or stored outside of the lab environment, e.g., chemical storage facilities.
3. Never use an open flame near flammable liquids.

4. Flammables should not be heated with an open flame. Other types of heat sources, such as a steam bath, water bath or heating mantle should be used.
5. Transfer flammable liquids with caution. The friction created by flowing liquids may be sufficient to generate static electricity, which may cause a spark and ignition. Therefore, ground all large containers (5 gallons or more) to the building or special ground system. Bond all metal and other containers together before pouring from them. When pouring into a plastic container, a copper rod that is bonded to the grounded supply container may be placed into the container and the flammable liquid poured over it. This will dissipate the charge.
6. Flammable liquids should be dispensed and used in a hood or well-ventilated area so that flammable vapors will not accumulate.
7. Substitute non-flammable liquids whenever possible.

Storage of Flammables

1. Keep only small quantities (500 ml or less) of flammable materials available for immediate use.
2. Large amounts (greater than 500 ml) of flammable liquids should not be stored on the open bench top. Quantities greater than ten (10) gallons stored in a laboratory will require the use of safety cans or a flammable storage cabinet.
3. An approved safety can with a self-closing cover, vent, and flame arrestor is the best container for storing flammable liquids or waste solvents in small quantities. An ordinary five-gallon container does not provide adequate protection in case of fire.
4. Fifty-five (55) gallon drums are not allowed in labs unless they are stored in flammable storage cabinets with appropriate spill control and grounding. This must be approved in advance by the safety and security department.
5. For cold storage of flammables only certified explosion-proof or explosion-resistant refrigerators and cooling equipment must be used.

6. All large metal containers (5 gallons or more) must be grounded and bonded to a grounding source (specialty installed electrical ground or to copper piping).

D. Corrosive Chemicals

Corrosives consist of four major classes: acids, bases, dehydrating agents and oxidizing agents. Inhalation of the vapors of these substances can cause severe respiratory tract irritation. Contact with these chemicals may cause burns to the skin, respiratory tract and eyes.

Acids and bases

The following are suggestions for safe use and storage:

1. Store separately in a cool ventilated area, away from metals, flammables and oxidizing material.
2. Secondary containment, such as chemical resistant tubs or bottle carriers should be used to isolate bottles.
3. The storage area should be checked regularly for spills and leaks.
4. Suitable spill clean-up materials must be available.
5. Always pour acids into water, never the reverse. Remember “AAA- Always Add Acids”
6. Cap bottles securely. The only exception to this will be the loose capping of mixtures if they generate gases during storage (ex: Aqua Regia). These should be stored in fume hoods or vented cabinets.
7. Clean up spills promptly. Do not leave residues on a bottle or lab bench where another person may come in contact with them.
8. Wear protective clothing and equipment when handling acids or bases. This shall include the proper chemical resistant gloves, aprons and eye protection.

Five acids deserve special attention because of the hazards they pose. These are: nitric acid, perchloric acid, picric acid, hydrofluoric acid and chromic acid. Criteria for storage and handling are as follows:

1. **Nitric acid** is corrosive and its oxides are highly toxic. Because nitric acid is also an oxidizing agent, it may form flammable and explosive compounds with many materials (e.g., ethers, acetone and combustible materials). Paper towels used to wipe up nitric acid spills may ignite spontaneously. Nitric acid should be used only in a hood and should be stored away from combustible materials.

2. **Perchloric acid** may form unstable and potentially highly explosive compounds with many organic compounds and metals. Unstable perchlorate crystals may collect in the ductwork of fume hoods and cause fire or violent explosions. Perchloric acid should be used with extreme caution and only in a fume hood designed for its use. A perchloric acid hood has corrosion-resistant ductwork and wash-down facilities. Minimum quantities of perchloric acid should be kept on hand and the container should be stored in a glass tray that is deep enough to hold the contents of the bottle. Perchloric acid must be dated when received into the lab and again when opened. It should be disposed of after one year since explosive crystals may form.

3. **Picric acid** can form explosive compounds with many combustible materials, especially when dry. When the moisture content decreases to less than 10%, picric acid will become unstable and may explode from being shaken, exposed to sudden changes of temperature, or from the friction created by opening the cap. Picric acid should be dated, stored as a flammable solid and not kept for extended periods.

4. **Hydrofluoric acid (HF)** is extremely corrosive and will weaken glass. All forms (dilute, concentrated, or vapor) can cause serious burns. Burns from hydrofluoric acid may not be felt immediately, may heal slowly and can be very painful. Inhalation of HF mists or vapors can cause serious respiratory tract damage that may be fatal. Therefore, hydrofluoric acid should be used in a suitable fume hood with proper gloves, safety glasses and lab coat being worn. This compound may only be stored in compatible containers, such as high or low-density polyethylene or Teflon.

Any lab using HF must have calcium gluconate available as a remedy for exposures. Immediately after an exposure, the area should be rinsed with running water for 2-5 minutes. The calcium gluconate compound must be applied to the area. Medical treatment must be sought immediately.

5. **Chromic acid and chromerge** solutions need to be handled with extreme care. If these are being used as cleaning solutions for glassware, it is recommended that they be replaced by other non-chromic acid compounds, such as “No-Chromix”. Their disposal is expensive. They may be used with care if there are no other alternatives,

Oxidizers

Included in this class of chemicals are nitrates, permanganates and oxides. These compounds have present fire and explosion hazards that can occur on contact with organic compounds and other oxidizing substances. Suggestions for safe use and storage:

1. Oxidizing agents should be stored separately from flammable liquids, organics, dehydrating agents and reducing agents.
2. Strong oxidizing agents should be stored and used in glass or other inert containers. Corks and rubber stoppers should not be used.
3. Oxidizing agents should be used with caution in the vicinity of flammable materials.

Dehydrating agents

These include concentrated sulfuric acid, sodium hydroxide, phosphorus pentoxide and calcium oxide. To avoid violent reactions and splattering, these chemicals should be added to water, never the reverse. Because of their affinity for water, these substances cause severe burns on contact with skin.

E. Compressed Gas Cylinders

Those individuals working with compressed gas cylinders should request a copy of the UF Safety Rules for Storage and Use of Compressed Gas Cylinders. These rules must be posted in a

prominent place wherever compressed gases are used and stored. It is important that valves caps are not misplaced. Cylinders cannot be transported or returned to the vendor without a valve cap.

All cylinders owned by the department or the University must be registered with department of Safety & security to ensure that they will be periodically tested for internal integrity. This hydrostatic testing is mandated for all cylinders and will be the responsibility of the department. If a cylinder has past the deadline for hydrostatic testing, it must be taken out of service until it has been tested and recertified for use.

Cylinder Safety

The following rules are intended to highlight and summarize the most common safety concerns regarding the handling and storage of compressed gas cylinders. Please check MSDS for specific information on the gases used in your lab.

1. Know the chemical and physical properties of the gases
2. Cylinders must be secured by use of chains, straps, racks, base plates or carts (regardless of cylinder size) anytime they are in use, being moved or stored.
3. All cylinders must be labeled with contents (do not rely on color codes) and stage of use (e.g., "full," "in use," "empty")
4. Store and use in well ventilated areas, away from heat or ignition sources
5. Store oxygen away from flammable gases. Reactive gases should be stored separately
6. The use and storage of flammable gases must be minimized. Please contact department of Safety & Security for a consultation.
7. Do not strike or allow cylinders to strike against one another
8. Metal cylinder caps for valve protection should be kept on at all times when the cylinders are not in use
9. A proper pressure regulator is required during use; improvised adapters are not allowed

10. Use regulators specific for the type of gas contained in a cylinder; they are not interchangeable
11. Do not use Teflon tape or lubricants on regulator threads
12. Release pressure and close valve at the end of the day's use; do not rely on a regulator to stop the gas flow
13. Handle empty cylinders with the same care as full cylinders
14. Transport cylinders only on a hand truck or other cart designed for such purpose; cap valve must be in place when transporting cylinders
15. Do not handle more than one cylinder at a time unless a cart designed for such purpose is utilized
16. Store full cylinders in a cool, well ventilated and protected area, away from emergency exits
17. Cylinders should never be stored horizontally
18. Do not let the temperature of the cylinders exceed 38° C (100° F)
19. Do not store corrosive gases for more than 6 months
20. Never attempt to refill a cylinder
21. Do not put cylinders into freezers
22. Report all cylinders in questionable condition to the lab supervisor

Cylinder disposal

It is highly recommended that the lab or department establish an account with suppliers who allow the return of unused gas and empty cylinders. Abandoned and aging cylinders must be picked up by the department of Safety & Security before the integrity of the cylinder is compromised, and this may incur cost to the department.

Flammable Gases

Flammable gas should be minimized in a laboratory. Do not store extra cylinders of flammable gas in the lab. Flammable gases need to store away from oxidizer gases, such as oxygen or nitrous oxide.

Toxic Gases

The use of highly toxic gases (i.e.: arsine, fluorine, phosphine, etc.) will require containment in a vented gas cabinet. These cabinets must be vented from the building through a dedicated exhaust, monitored and alarmed for leakage and have an emergency power back-up system for the fan motor. Other gases such as carbon monoxide may require a monitoring system or device.

F. Highly Reactive and Potentially Explosive Chemicals

When chemical reactions are considered safe, it is generally because the reaction rate is relatively slow or can be easily controlled. Certain reactions proceed, however, at an extremely rapid rate and generate intense heat that may result in an explosion. Care should be taken to ensure there is sufficient cooling and a surface area for heat exchange.

Many chemical reactions may be handled safely if preliminary planning has been adequate. Planning an experiment should include knowledge of the reactivity, flammability and toxicity of the chemicals used in and produced by the experiment. Care must be taken so as not to contaminate the reactive compound and trigger an uncontrolled or non-planned reaction.

Lab personnel should consult with the laboratory supervisor or principal investigator when planning an experiment in which hazardous materials are used, or hazardous conditions may occur. Such planning shall include selection of the proper safety procedures and equipment as well as consideration of the possibility of a power failure, equipment breakdown or fire. A partial list of highly reactive and potentially explosive chemicals follows:

Pyrophoric Materials

These compounds (such as phosphorus or lithium) are air reactive and require specific storage and use conditions. Most should be stored under mineral oil or other conditions.

Water Reactive Materials

Substances such as potassium and sodium metals require special storage to prevent contact with water or high humidity conditions.

Peroxide Forming Compounds

Organic peroxides are a class of compounds that have unusual stability problems that make them among the most hazardous substances handled in laboratories. As a class, organic peroxides are considered to be powerful explosives. They are sensitive to heat, friction, impact and light as well as to strong oxidizing and reducing agents. All organic peroxides are flammable.

Requirements for safe use and storage of ether and other peroxidizable materials:

1. Ethers and peroxidizable materials should be ordered only in small quantities.
2. All peroxidizable materials should be stored in a cool place, away from light.
3. Metal cans are preferable; do not store ethers in ground glass-stoppered bottles, as they do not seal adequately.
4. These must be dated upon receipt and when opened.
5. They should be discarded within a year after receipt if unopened, or within six months of opening.
6. Containers that show signs of prolonged storage or age (such as label deterioration or corrosion) should be disposed of through the department of Safety & Security as soon as possible.
7. Ethers must always be handled in a hood to assure proper ventilation. This will protect individuals from inhaling the vapor and prevent accumulation of explosive concentrations of the vapor.

G. Chemical Waste Disposal

Disposal of all chemical and radioactive waste generated by the COCP is managed by the Hazardous Materials Management Program. It is of utmost importance that labs abide by the

policies set by Laboratory Management and Safety Unit. Minimization of chemical wastes should be an integral part of the laboratory setup and operating procedures. Chemicals (including liquid solutions of $\text{pH} < 5$) must not be disposed of down drains, in trash, or by evaporation. Chemical wastes are required to be held at the generating location in a defined “accumulation areas” until ready for pick up. A designated lab waste manager from each lab is required to attend mandatory classroom training provided by Laboratory Management and Safety Unit each year. Research departments will receive memos with instructions on how to schedule the classroom training session. The following is a summary of the chemical waste accumulation and disposal process at COCP.

Identification and Labeling

1. Hazardous chemical waste containers must have the yellow Hazardous Waste label on them.
2. The label must list all constituents and the percentages of each, totaling 100%.

Waste Containers

1. All chemicals’ wastes shall be accumulated in sealable containers.
2. Containers shall be kept closed during accumulation except when adding waste to a container.
3. A funnel cannot be left in the container.
4. Do not over fill containers; one inch of air space from the top is required to allow for expansion.

Accumulation

1. Do not accumulate more than 55 gallons of waste or 1 quart of a P-Listed waste.
2. Keep solids and liquids separate.
3. Segregate chemical wastes by class: acids, bases, halogenated, non-halogenated, oxidizers, and reactive.

5. LABORATORY CLOSE-OUTS

It is the responsibility of the research department to notify the Safety & Security department when a laboratory will be closing, relocating to another lab or transferring ownership. The researcher must adhere to the guidelines outlined in COCP Laboratory Close-Out Policy. Proper disposition of all hazardous materials used in laboratories is the responsibility of the principal investigator or researcher to whom a laboratory is assigned. Before a researcher or graduate student leaves the College of Clinical Pharmacy/ Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, all samples and chemicals used or generated by that person must be clearly labeled for content and disposed of prior to their departure. If samples are being saved for future analysis, they must be properly identified and there must be a clear timeline for disposal of these samples. Any chemicals or samples left behind for future use must be assigned to another researcher or department chair who will take responsibility for those items.