

Chemistry Safety Notes

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"Chemistry Safety Notes" is published by the Chemistry Dept. Safety Committee, written & edited by Debbie Decker, Safety Mgr.

Self/Peer Inspections

Beginning in January, Julia and Debbie will be accomplishing self/peer inspections in the Department. We hope to get through the Department in six weeks and we'll be using the same checklist EH&S uses for their inspections. We don't intend to make individual appointments, unless that's something you'd prefer. Please let me know.

January is also a good time to update your lab-specific training, review lab specific documentation, etc.

OSHA Info Sheet: Potential Risk from Eyewash Stations

A recent OSHA info sheet details the adverse side effects caused by contaminated water from improperly maintained emergency eyewash stations.

Eyewash stations are required in facilities that use materials that could cause injury or infection to the eyes of its employees. When this safety equipment isn't properly maintained, the stagnant water that collects has a greater likelihood of harboring potentially harmful organisms. According to the fact sheet, organisms including *Acanthamoeba*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Legionella* thrive in stagnant, untreated water and are known to cause infections when they come into contact with eyes and skin, or if they are inhaled. The fact sheet specifies workers using emergency equipment following an eye injury may be more susceptible to infection.

Workers using eyewash stations after exposure to a hazardous material may have eye injuries that make the eye more susceptible to infection. Also, workers with skin damage or compromised immune systems, are at increased risk for developing illnesses from contaminated water.

Therefore, it's extremely important to be diligent about monthly eyewash/shower testing. Regular activation of this equipment will reduce the risk of development of these organisms.

Excerpted from Haws Fact Sheet and OSHA Info Sheet (2015), <https://www.osha.gov/publications/osha3818.pdf>



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Building Project Update

The general updates are as follows:

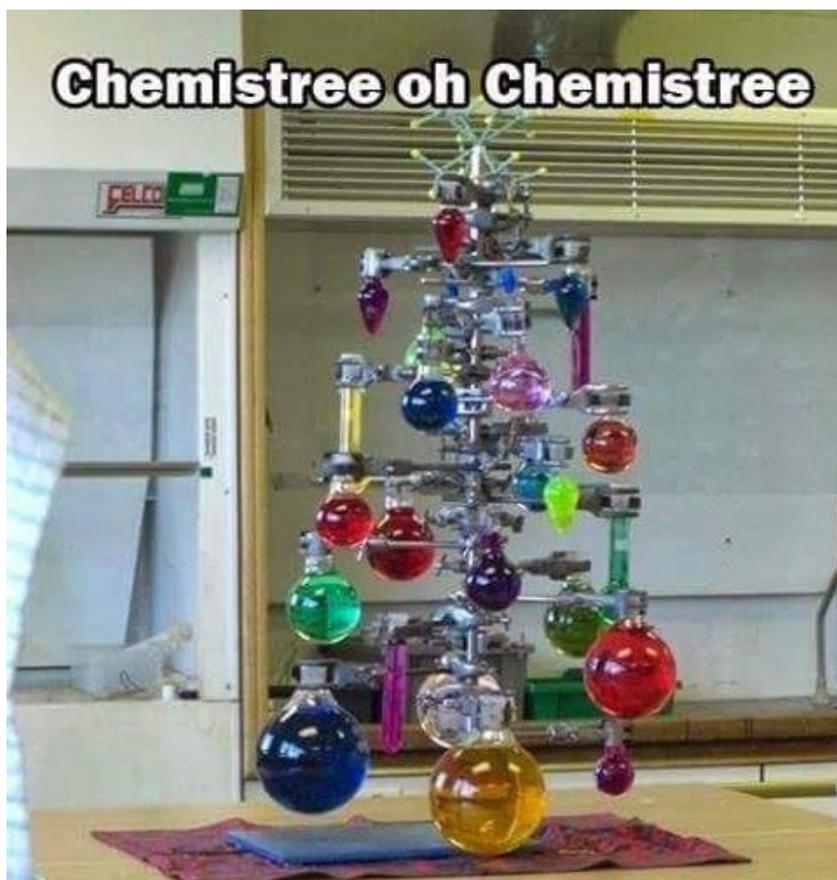
- **Storm Drain Corrections**—Have been completed—just in time for lots of storm water.
- **Chemistry Rooms 1, 3, & 92 Remodel (chilled water loop)** – Project is underway and the contractor is moving swiftly through the basement. Check the bulletin board across from Chemistry 122 for project drawings and schedule.
- **Chemistry Safety and Security**—The bids have been received and the contract documents under review. This project should kick-off early next year.
- **Seismic and Sprinklers**—There's currently conversation about trying to match up the seismic corrections and fire sprinklers with planned renovations to minimize disruption. A consultant experienced in renovation projects in occupied buildings has been engaged and will begin this planning work in the new year.

SOP Task Force

Because of several graduations, there are spots available on the SOP Task Force. The Task Force is a collaborative effort between Chemistry and EH&S. The work of the Task Force has been instrumental in the development of a new collection of SOP templates, which have been deployed both campus-wide and system-wide. They offered input to the new campus Laboratory Safety Manual and the new lab-specific lab safety plan template. The development team for the new inventory application has relied heavily on input from the Task Force as they create a new inventory management option.

The Task Force is chartered by the campus Chemical and Laboratory Safety Committee and facilitated by me and Chris Jakober, campus Chemical Hygiene Officer.

If you're interested, please let me know. Time commitment is around 4 to 6 hours per month. It's one of the most fun things I get to do in my work in the Department!



Some truly nerdtastic holiday gift ideas are here:

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/93/i47/Holiday-Gift-Ideas.html>

Personal fave: Periodic Table Baking Dish

ALWAYS A GOOD REMINDER!

Can you lick the science? An abbreviated list.

Genetics: Do not. Unless cheek swabs?

Chemistry: NO!!!!!! DO NOT!!!!!!

Archaeology: Perhaps. But might be human bone.

Geology: Sometimes needed, sometimes dangerous

Psychology: Best not.

Physics: ?????????? How???????

Zoology: In zoology, science licks you.

Source: snowysauropteryx

20,433 notes



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