

Chemistry Safety Notes

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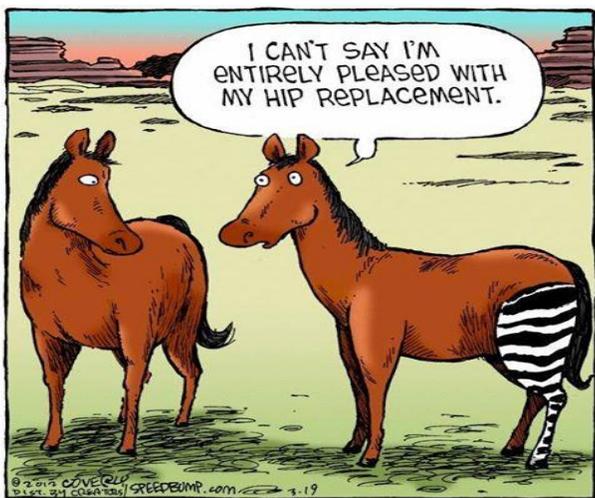
"Chemistry Safety Notes" is published by the Chemistry Dept. Safety Committee, written & edited by Debbie Decker, Safety Mgr.

PPE – IMPORTANT REMINDERS

So, let's review:

1. Long pants (covered legs) and proper footwear are to be worn **at all times** in areas where chemicals are used or stored.
2. Safety glasses are required upon entry into areas where chemicals are used or stored.
3. When working with chemicals or observing a reaction or adjusting equipment, even "just for a minute," safety glasses and appropriate lab coat **must be worn**.
4. At designated desk areas within laboratories, lab coats and safety glasses may be removed. Safety glasses must be put back on to exit the lab.

I had a conversation with a researcher the other day –when it was particularly warm. He was very comfortable in a light t-shirt, cotton scrub pants and sneakers. There's no excuse for not being properly attired in lab.



PPE – IOU Fulfillment

EH&S is in the process of mailing to PIs the PPE owed to researchers from the distribution event. Safety eyewear should arrive sometime in the next week. Lab coats should arrive before the end of the month.

Over 21,000 pieces of personal protective equipment will be distributed to the various campuses to satisfy IOUs. Davis had almost 6,000 IOUs.

Incident of the Month

A department researcher inadvertently dumped some ethanol into an acid bath, thinking it was the base bath (sometimes base bath has ethanol in it, too). The reaction resulted in a lovely brown cloud of nitrogen oxides and a building evacuation. No humans were damaged in this incident.

The acid bath was a nitric acid bath and the containers were not well-marked. The nitric acid in the bath has been replaced with hydrochloric acid – just as effective but not as reactive. And the containers of all the various baths have been very well-labelled.

Please review the use of acid/base baths in your labs. Be sure they are very well-marked as to contents. Consider using different colored containers for the different baths – just to make it more obvious.

"When reading [all the generic names for antibodies](#), is anyone else hearing them in Little Richard's voice? I'm pretty sure awopbopalobop is in Phase II trials for small cell renal carcinoma, while Lilly is preparing alopbamboom for a NDA."

From the Chemjobber blog (chemjobber.blogspot.com)

Let's Talk Laundry!

Sharon and I have been working with Mission Linen on how to accomplish laundry services. Please follow the guidance below. The Department will fund laundry service. New coat racks and a larger area in 143 has been allocated for lab coats. Lab coats will be returned on hangers to the rack, separated by group name.



For new lab coats, with the UC logo and a bar code in the collar: Please put them in the hamper in 143 Chemistry.

For existing lab coats which have a bar code in the collar: Please put them in the hamper in 143 Chemistry.

For existing lab coats, *without* a bar code, that the lab WANTS TO KEEP: Please fill out a yellow “Fix It” tag with your group name and person’s name, if the person wants the coat back. Print clearly!

This would include the coats distributed at the February PPE Event that don’t have a bar code. Please enter the name of the person on the tag, as well as the group.

Wire the tag through a button hole on the coat. Put the coat in the hamper in 143 Chemistry.

For existing lab coats, with or without a bar code, that the lab DOES NOT WANT TO KEEP (but still may be useful): Please fill out a yellow “Fix It” tag with “CHEMISTRY POOL” on the tag. If there’s a bar code in the collar, draw a line through it with a sharpie. Wire the tag through a button hole on the coat. Put the coat in the hamper in 143 Chemistry.