

Chemistry Safety Notes

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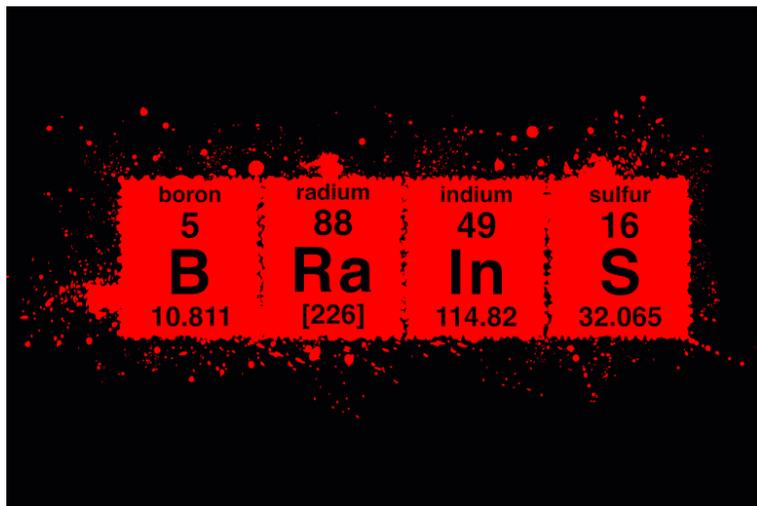
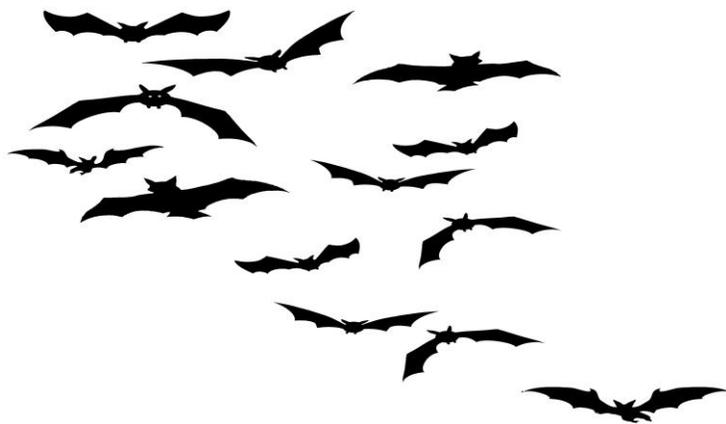
"Chemistry Safety Notes" is published by the Chemistry Dept. Safety Committee, written & edited by Debbie Decker, Safety Mgr.

Proper Attire In The Department

I suspect you're sick of hearing this but based on recent observations, it needs to be repeated:

Full length pants (or equivalent) and closed toe/heel shoe attire must be worn at all times by all workers who are occupying or entering a laboratory or technical area (Storeroom). The area of skin between the pants and shoe should not be exposed. This would include areas of skin revealed by the current style to wear ripped or shredded clothing. Leggings are not considered "pants."

Remember – the skin is the largest organ in your body – protect your skin when you're in the lab!



Hazardous Materials Removal Project

The Hazardous Materials Removal Project (HMRP) begins October 21st, 2014 in 2415 Chem Annex. This is an opportunity for you to get rid of unneeded hazardous materials at no charge.

Chemistry Annex 2415 will be available for haz mat drop off from 10AM to 2PM daily from October 21st until November 3rd.

The advantage of taking advantage of this program is that you don't have to label materials as hazardous waste. Please do label materials as best you can. If you are disposing samples or weird unknowns, try to give the technicians as much information as possible.

Annual Chemical Inventory Update & Self-Audits

UC Davis is required to prepare an annual inventory of hazardous chemicals to comply with existing State and Federal Community Right-to-Know laws.

All CIS account owners must update their chemical inventory and complete the CUPA Self-Audit checklist no later than **Friday, January 16, 2015**.

- CUPA Checklist must be completed annually.
- Retain this inspection record for at least three years.
- No need to submit copies to Environmental Health and Safety.

New reporting thresholds:

- All solid and liquid hazardous chemicals and mixtures greater than 1gm or 1ml must be included on the inventory
- Any amount of compressed gases must also be included.

Contact cis@ucdavis.edu if you have any questions about the program.

Cal/OSHA Inspections

During a recent Department Safety Committee, we discussed potential Cal/OSHA inspections. Here's a list of documents you should have available and on which your people should be trained:

Lab-Specific Chemical Hygiene Plan (reviewed in the past year and dated to that effect)

Standard Operating Procedures

Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP)

Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

You can also point your folks to a link for the IIPP and EAP, if you wish. Both documents are on the Department website, under the "Safety" tab.

Proper lab attire and PPE are *extremely* important. See page 1 for *that* reminder. It's critical we provide a good example for students and visitors and be properly attired while in lab.

While lab security isn't strictly part of Cal/OSHA regulation, it sends a message if lab doors are left open with no one in attendance. Please be aware of this situation, particularly those labs which are near building entrances and stairwells/elevators. Please close and lock doors when no one is around.

Editor's Note:

I captured the article on page 3 from the Chemical and Engineering News, Safety Zone Blog for this week. It's a great piece on how to correctly doff safety equipment. In my training, I've been taught how to properly take off safety equipment so that I don't contaminate myself, trying to get out of my safety gear. But it takes some practice to develop the techniques. Please review and practice, using the tips provided. It can be a fun exercise/training opportunity to don and doff safety gear and have others offer comments about whether or not someone would end up contaminated.

Ya'll stay safe out there on Halloween!





Posted By [Jyllian Kemsley](#) on Oct 15, 2014 in [Featured](#), [Personal Protective Equipment](#) | [1 comment](#)

One of the things highlighted in the news this week is the risks of contamination from removing—”doffing”—personal protective equipment. “Meticulous removal, or doffing, of PPE is as important as its meticulous donning,” wrote infectious disease physician Amesh A. Adalja in [“Ebola Lessons We Need To Learn From Dallas.”](#)

Most chemists don’t need to fear Ebola, but they do wear PPE to protect from chemical exposure. I asked [Iowa State University](#) lab safety specialist Ryan Wyllie and biosafety specialist Amy Helgerson what chemistry researchers should keep in mind when removing their PPE.

Gloves

“You don’t ever want to have bare skin touching the contaminated parts of the glove,” Helgerson says. Remove the first one by grasping the material between the hand and the cuff, then pull it off while turning it inside out. Remove the second by using a bare finger to reach underneath the other glove and then pull it off, again so that it turns inside out. Then, wash your hands to remove any breakthrough or doffing contamination.

Lab coats

Generally, undo the coat and then pull it off one sleeve at a time, reaching for the inside to avoid contaminating your hands. “If the lab coat is grossly contaminated, then you would want to turn it inside out and put it in the proper receptacle for laundering or disposal,” Wyllie says. For a grossly contaminated coat, you might also want to wear gloves while removing it. Again, wash your hands when you’re done. Ideally, individual lab coats should be hung on individual hooks, so the outside of one doesn’t contaminate the inside of another.

Eye protection

“In most cases, eye protection should be the least contaminated thing that you have on,” Helgerson says, and they should stay on until the moment you leave the lab. It’s usually safe just to take them off. If they are contaminated, then you probably need to worry less about how to safely remove them and more about why you’re not already under the shower.

Other things to consider

First, make sure you’re wearing the correct PPE. For gloves in particular, check a safety data sheet and a compatibility chart to make sure you’re using the correct protection for the chemical hazard.

Also, watch what you touch with your gloves on. Don’t push your eye protection up on the bridge of your nose; don’t use a keyboard that you or others use bare-handed.