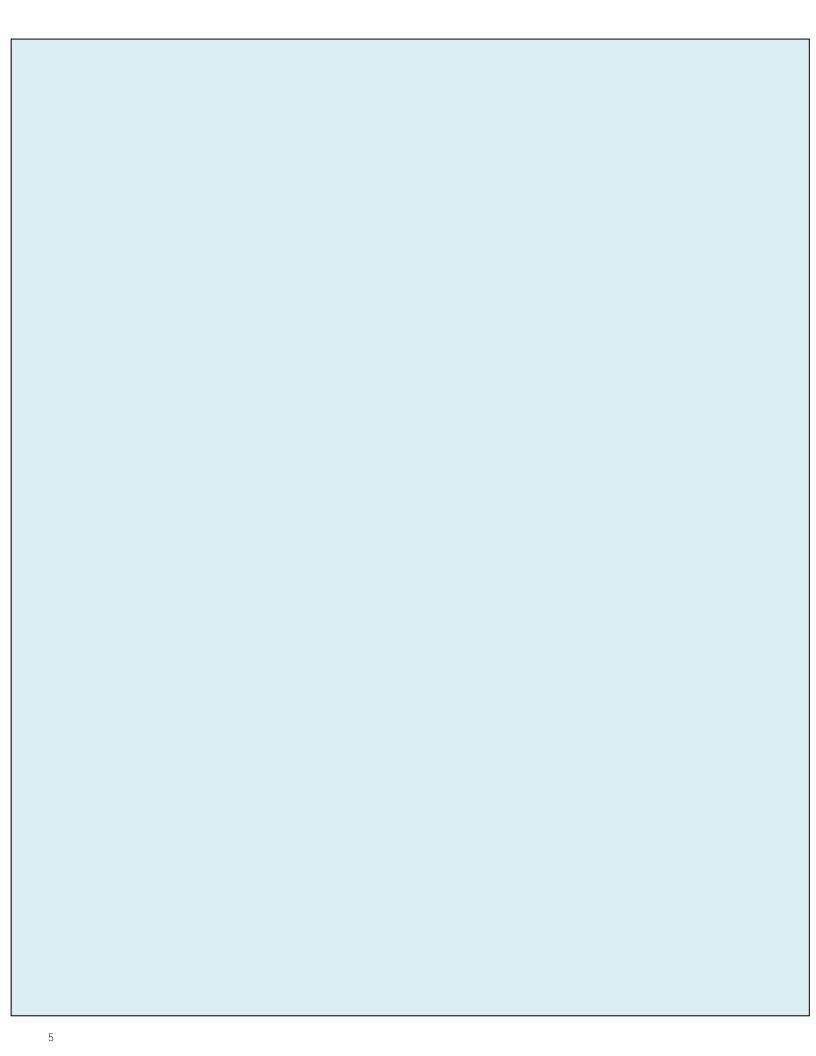
Lab Chatter

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Lab Spill Kit for Incidental Chemical Release

By Ronnie Souza

Our March Safety Spotlight is on Emergency Muster Points. The following is a list of muster points for buildings on both campuses that you should use in the case of an emergency evacuation. You can find more information on this topic by going to the Safety and Security portion of the UNE Website and accessing the Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report.



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Transporting chemicals between labs and buildings By Peter Nagle

Occasionally it is necessary to transport chemicals between buildings, whether through a lab relocation, borrowing, or simply moving them between labs. When doing so, there are guidelines that must be followed.

First, if carrying a chemical, it is important to place it in a secondary container such as a pail or bottle carrier. Doing so provides the container with "bump protection" and helps contain any potential leaks or spills that could occur in high profile areas at inopportune moments.

Second, if moving several chemicals at once, it is essential to use a sturdy cart with a substantial lip to prevent slippage from the cart. This is crucial when transporting chemicals outdoors on uneven surfaces where a cart can unexpectedly come to a sudden stop, subsequently causing the chemicals to slip off the cart and create a spill. Many of the lab carts seen on campus do not have a sufficient rim on them to prevent slippage and therefore are inadequate for transporting chemicals outdoors. The Rubbermaid carts with the 3 inch rims are best for conveyance.

Third, under no circumstances should a personal or university vehicle be used to transport chemicals between campuses or on public roads without EHS approval. The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) has specific regulations regarding the "Materials of Trade" exemption in which only limited amounts of chemicals or products are allowed to be transported over public roads without associated paperwork. Furthermore, not all chemicals are covered under this exemption. If you need to transport chemicals between campuses, consult EHS beforehand (see contact information on page 8).

Examples of bottle carriers and carts:



