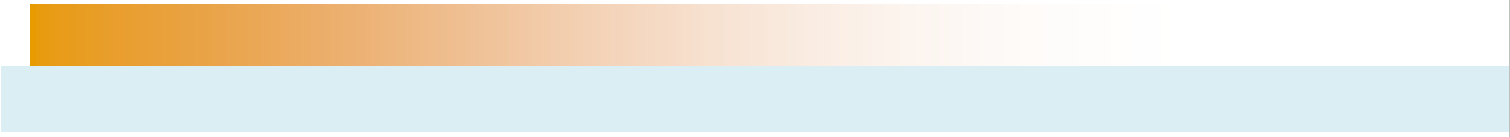


This OSHA regulation states the following requirements for Chemical Hygiene Plans:



10 Quick Lab Safety Tips

This is one of the most common bad habits found among personnel and easily one of the hardest to kick. Everyone enjoys a good coffee or ice water while at work. But removing food and drink from the laboratory has multiple benefits. First, it reduces distraction. When performing critical tasks, any distraction is bad. Remove any and all distractions to help prevent injury or loss. Second, food waste can be messy. Messes reduce efficiency and promote risk of contamination. And last but definitely not least, it is a safety best-practice. A worse case example is one coming out of S 10.68W4 c ls iy873()-113cr Dr-6(n)12(0 Gm)-211(c)12(di)-10e10(

Confirm that all of your lab staff has had the appropriate level of safety training. (At UNE this is accomplished by having individuals take the safety training modules on Blackboard). Lab-specific safety training is also strongly encouraged as each laboratory setting is different and has unique hazards depending on the type of work being performed. Document all training and keep the records on file.

Remember the good ol' days back in elementary school when safety drills were an exciting surprise? As kids we didn't understand just how valuable those drills were. They prepared us for worst-case scenarios and emergency disasters. If the time ever came where these practices were necessary, we were armed with the training and knowledge we had. Guess what? Nothing has changed as we got older. As previously mentioned, good habits are essential to ongoing safety practices. Conducting routine drills will prepare students and staff members for emergencies. Identify emergency exits, meeting areas, and individuals that can assist as guides in the event evacuation is necessary. Make sure everyone is completely aware of the plans. Providing handouts or literature with maps is also helpful. Lab managers dread ever having to experience an emergency, but being well prepared is more than half the battle.

You've got a lot to do as a lab manager or supervisor. Another great way to make sure everything is running efficiently is to delegate tasks. Assign various team members duties that will help keep lab safety protocols in place. For example, one member could make sure all warning signs are present, while another keeps inventory of chemicals. Spread out the responsibility to allow yourself the time necessary to focus on the bigger picture. Training, delegation and inspection should be all that you have to do once it all comes together like clockwork.

There is nothing more effective than positive motivation and excitement. Laboratory safety isn't exactly a party favorite. However, with a little added personality, carefully planned pep-talks and sharing of personal experiences can really make all the difference. Adding a little humility by sharing examples of mistakes you've made makes it all more real and relatable. Incorporate some humor while speaking about laboratory safety policies and you'll get more than just laughs. The things you teach will be more memorable.

