



Lab Chatter

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With the bi-annual lab inspections in full swing, this is an opportune time to identify some of the most common issues we are seeing in the laboratories. These issues are seen in multiple labs, though most violate only a couple of the ones listed. The list appears to be extensive; however, the labs are generally in good condition and we appreciate the cooperation we have received from lab personnel.

Common Lab Inspection Violations:

- 1) Not updating the emergency contact card after a change in personnel and/or no second contact listed.**
The emergency contact c

OSHA standards in section 1910.95 are about occupational hearing loss and hearing conservation programs. The standards state that "The employer shall administer a continuing, effective hearing conservation program, as described in paragraphs (c) through (o) of this section, whenever employee noise exposures equal or exceed an 8-hour time-weighted average sound level (TWA) of 85 decibels measured on the A scale (slow response) or, equivalently, a dose of fifty percent. For purposes of the hearing conservation program, employee noise exposures shall be computed in accordance with appendix A and Table G-16a, and without regard to any attenuation provided by the use of personal protective equipment."

UNE has a Hearing Conservation Program in place for employees exposed to high levels of noise in the job place. Most employees that participate in the program are in the University's Facilities Maintenance department but there are also other employees on campus who are affected. If you are wearing hearing protection such as ear plugs or ear muffs for work that you do as a UNE employee you need to contact EHS to notify them that hearing protection is being used

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When do people pay the most attention to signs? It seems to be while driving a car! Have you ever wondered why that is? Most likely it's because signs are the simplest way to direct, instruct, and warn people. During your commute to work today did you happen to notice all the signs along the way? "You'll need to detour on this road," one tells you. "Slow down, you're driving too fast!" another advises. "Watch out for that bump," you are warned.

Road and travel indicators are not the only signs that direct, instruct and warn. Safety signs at the workplace, especially laboratories, direct, instruct and warn employees. Just as it is dangerous to ignore road signs, it is dangerous to ignore laboratory workplace safety signs. These messages are in place to prevent accidents and injury. They alert employees to potential hazards in the laboratory.

But as on the roadway, signs in the laboratory have different meanings. Let's take a look at a few of the more common of these, note their colors, and discuss what the colors symbolize:



DANGER: These signs have a red background and warn of immediate danger. Failure to comply could result in serious injury or death.



CAUTION: These have a yellow background and warn of potential hazards.



