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September 7, 2016:**

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1. Fall Safety Colloquium = NOT Just for Labs

The fall colloquium, co-sponsored by EHS and the Office of Research and Economic Development, will be on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, and is relevant to anyone who works with compressed gases. Tim Zoz, Matheson Tri-Gas, will talk about compressed gases, their safe use and storage.

- East Campus Union from 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.
- Repeated at Hamilton Hall (Room 104) from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

RSVPs are NOT required. For further information or to suggest future colloquium topics contact Elizabeth (Betsy) Howe, ehowe2@unl.edu or (402) 472-5488.

Resources

- EHS Safety Colloquium Series <http://ehs.unl.edu/training/Colloquium>

2. Chancellor's University Safety Committee OPEN FORUM

The Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) will host an Open Forum meeting at the Nebraska City Union **3:00 – 4:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, September 20, 2016**. The campus community is encouraged to attend to share concerns or observe the workings of the CUSC. The overall charge of the committee is to advise UNL administration on methods and means of minimizing safety and health hazards at UNL to the extent feasible. The current goal of the CUSC is: Develop, review, and maintain lines of safety communication with the purpose of engaging the campus community, in particular by encouraging all to recognize and report "near misses." Mark your calendar to attend.

Resources

- Chancellor's University Safety Committee <http://ehs.unl.edu/chancellors-university-safety-committee-cusc#cusc>

3. NEW: Guidance for Collection and Storage of Human Samples

If you are a researcher collecting and/or storing samples collected from human subjects, this new Safe Operation Procedure (SOP) is a “must read.” Human samples can be divided into two groups: 1) those that are subject to the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA’s) Standard for Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030) and 2) those that are not subject to the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

This SOP provides information regarding collection and storage of samples from both classes of materials, as well as information on approvals that may be necessary from UNL’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

As a reminder, shipping of human samples by commercial carrier may be subject to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or International Air Transport Association (IATA) regulations. These regulations pertain to packaging, labeling, and required training for persons engaged in a transport function.

For further information, contact the UNL Biosafety Officer: 402-472-9554 or manderson11@unl.edu.

Resources

- EHS **Guidance for Collection and Storage of Human Samples** Safe Operating Procedure http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-bio-guidance_collection_storage_human_samples.pdf
- EHS **Shipping** Safe Operating Procedures <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/shipping>
- EHS **Bloodborne Pathogens** Safe Operating Procedures <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/bloodborne-pathogens>
- EHS **Biosafety** Safe Operating Procedures <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/biosafety>

4. Register with the IBC!

The Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) at UNL is charged with oversight of research involving recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids and biological agents including bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi, and toxins. The scope, requirements, and role of the IBC is described in the **UNL Biosafety Guidelines**. These Guidelines also describe those types of activities that must be registered with the

Committee. Registration is generally a required component of maintaining compliance with certain regulatory requirements, generally recognized consensus standards, and/or funding agency guidelines to remain in good standing and retain funding eligibility, particularly as it relates to funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

IBC meetings are scheduled once per month during the academic year from September through May and as needed during the summer months. Meetings are conducted in a manner that facilitates discussion, public attendance, and Principal Investigator (PI) participation. Committee business is always conducted in a live meeting and never conducted by email or other electronic means. The meeting schedule/submission deadlines are available on the IBC web site and meeting dates are posted on the University calendar. Meetings are held at the Environmental Health & Safety offices training room. PIs are notified of the meeting date at which their protocol will be discussed and are invited to attend at their discretion.

Contact the Biosafety Officer if you have questions, 402-472-9554 or manderson11@unl.edu.

Resources

- **UNL Biosafety Guidelines** http://ehs.unl.edu/Biosafety_Guidelines.pdf
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) <http://ehs.unl.edu/committees/ibc>

5. Is Your IBC Protocol Up-to-date?

Have you amended your Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) protocol lately? Research changes quickly, new developments and targets emerge, new techniques are developed. It can all be very exciting and your enthusiasm to conduct the new experiments is understandable and encouraged, but do you have approval to do the new/ revised work?

If it is not described in your IBC protocol, you cannot start work without at least notifying the IBC by submitting a protocol amendment. In some cases, (e.g. work with human pathogens, human materials, viral vectors, etc.) you will have to wait until the IBC reviews your amendment to start the work. A reminder: you must amend your approved IBC protocol in NUgrant if you are adding or changing any of the following:

- Genes studied or host/vector systems used in your recombinant nucleic acid work
- Infectious agents or biological toxins
- Work with substances from humans or certain vertebrate animals
- Transgenic animal or plant work
- Collection of or sampling of wild animals with a zoonotic disease risk
- Administration of biologics to animals

- Administration of biologics to plants
- Anything else that may have an impact on the biosafety level of the work being performed

All of these items would also trigger the need for a new IBC protocol if you do not currently have one.

Additionally, if you are utilizing “core facilities” on campus or adding/removing laboratory spaces, the IBC must be notified through submission of a Minor Modification form or an Amendment form. If you are not sure which form to submit, please contact the EHS biosafety staff.

Not reporting changes in recombinant nucleic acid research or use/creation of transgenic organisms can have consequences. Non-compliance of this type is reportable to NIH.

Do your part and stay in compliance by observing the following:

- Review your IBC protocol at least annually.
- Amend your IBC protocol when your research changes.
- Contact the UNL Biosafety Officer with any questions about changes in research.

The UNL Environmental Health and Safety Biosafety staff are ready to assist you with amending your protocol and answering any questions you may have. Do not hesitate to contact them: ibc@unl.edu or 402-472-4925.

Resources

- **UNL Biosafety Guidelines** http://ehs.unl.edu/Biosafety_Guidelines.pdf
- Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) <http://ehs.unl.edu/committees/ibc>

6. Safety Poster – If It Glows

EHS provides a number of safety posters of relevance to the campus community. The poster highlighted this month serves to remind those who work with GFP or other fluorescent molecules introduced into microorganism to register with the IBC.



Request your FREE poster(s) today. Contact ehs@unl.edu or 402-472-4925 with your name, campus mailing address, and quantity desired.

7. NEW Safety Poster – Hazardous Chemicals Collection

EHS provides a number of safety posters of relevance to the campus community. Now available is a new poster to serve as a quick visual reminder of some of the requirements related to containers, labeling, filling, storing/staging and tagging hazardous chemicals.



Request your FREE poster(s) today. Contact ehs@unl.edu or 402-472-4925 with your name, campus mailing address, and quantity desired. Complete information is contained within the EHS **Hazardous/Radioactive Materials Collection Procedures** (http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-chem_collection_procedures.pdf) Safe Operating Procedure.

Review other FREE posters at: <http://ehs.unl.edu/safety-posters>. If you have an idea for a safety poster you would like to become available, contact Elizabeth (Betsy) Howe, ehowe2@unl.edu, 402-472-5488.

8. Situational Preparedness – Supplier Showcase

Situational preparedness can encompass a wide variety of hazards. The Chancellor's University Safety Committee (CUSC) has been reviewing situational preparedness concerns/near misses. The CUSC will have a booth at the October 18, 2016, Supplier Showcase sponsored by UNL Procurement from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the City Union. Make plans to stop by for a "Heads Up" on how to stay aware and be prepared to maintain YOUR personal safety.

Resources

- Chancellor's University Safety Committee <http://ehs.unl.edu/chancellors-university-safety-committee-cusc#cusc>

9. Tell Us Please

Environmental Health and Safety is committed to excellent customer service and offers a *Customer Satisfaction Survey* as an easy method for the campus community to provide feedback on our services and staff. By taking a few moments to complete the survey (<http://ehs.unl.edu/survey>), you will be helping us to identify areas where we might need to focus our attention. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact Brenda Osthus, EHS Director, at 402-472-4927 or bosthus1@unl.edu if you would rather communicate outside the parameters of this survey.

10. Revised Safe Operating Procedures

- EHS SOP **Automatic External Defibrillators** <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-AED.pdf>
Added guidance on disposal.
- EHS SOP **Battery Disposal** <http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-batterydisposal.pdf>
Added guidelines for equipment/devices containing non-alkaline batteries that cannot be easily removed.
- EHS SOP **Glass Disposal – Intact or Broken** http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-glass_disposal.pdf
Revised to add graphics of additional glass collection containers and labeling.
- EHS SOP **Items/Materials Prohibited From Trash Cans and Dumpsters** http://ehs.unl.edu/sop/s-dumpster_ban.pdf
Revised guidance on antifreeze, ACM (Asbestos Containing Material), batteries, scrap metal, and pharmaceuticals.

Remember...SAFETY IS AN ATTITUDE!

Environmental Health and Safety

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