Lab safety

Run through basic lab safety checklist once a week

• Eyewash and shower flushed every week and documented
• Chemical inventory up to data in the OnSite system
• Current chemical safety data sheets
• Chemicals properly stored (see hazard color code system, below)
• Containers labeled with full names of their contents and the hazard
• Chemical containers tightly closed when not in immediate use
• Training for all lab procedures
• All lab staff are wearing PPE and proper clothing and shoes
• Hazardous procedures and toxic materials have standard operating procedures
• Food and drink are never brought into the lab

UAF hazard color code system
BLUE — Health hazard
RED — Flammable hazard
YELLOW — Reactivity hazard. Separate from flammables/combustibles.
WHITE — Contact hazard. Store in a corrosion-proof area.
ORANGE or GREEN — Store in a general chemical storage area.
STRIPED — Incompatible materials of the hazard class. Assess storage.

Before you start work in the lab, review the following procedures and equipment.

Chemical inventory up to date in the OnSite system
Chemical safety data sheets
Chemicals properly stored (see hazard color code system, below)
Containers labeled with full names of their contents and the hazard
Chemical containers tightly closed when not in immediate use
Training for all lab procedures
All lab staff are wearing PPE and proper clothing and shoes
Hazardous procedures and toxic materials have standard operating procedures
Food and drink are never brought into the lab

Training for all lab procedures
Chemical inventory up to date in the OnSite system
Current chemical safety data sheets
Chemicals properly stored (see hazard color code system, below)
Containers labeled with full names of their contents and the hazard
Chemical containers tightly closed when not in immediate use
Training for all lab procedures
All lab staff are wearing PPE and proper clothing and shoes
Hazardous procedures and toxic materials have standard operating procedures
Food and drink are never brought into the lab

Contact EHSRM for assistance with cleaning up or disposing of hazardous materials, training, questions about chemical safety, or to report an unsafe condition.

Know the location of the fire alarm, the emergency eyewash/safety shower, first-aid kit and safety data sheets.

Do not mix waste streams. Dangerous reactions can occur, or it may be more expensive to dispose of the waste.

Do not work alone in the lab. Work with a partner on hazardous experiments.

Do not smell, taste or look directly down into chemicals; view test tubes from the side.

Do not store chemicals or wastes in fume hoods.

Do not exceed allowable quantities of chemicals. Contact EHSRM if you have questions.

Do not block access to emergency equipment and electrical panels.

Inspect all equipment before use and tag if it needs repair. Clean equipment regularly.

Compressed gas cylinders must be secured, and incompatible gases must not be stored together.
Secure tanks with two chains or straps.

Keep fire sprinklers clear. Storage must be a minimum of 18 inches below sprinkler heads.

Keep incompatible chemicals separated. Follow the hazard color-coding system.

Eyewash and safety shower must be flushed weekly and documented.

Keep your chemical inventory up to date on the OnSite Chemical Inventory site.

Contact EHSRM for information concerning proper disposal of chemicals.

Return equipment, chemicals and personal protective equipment to designated locations.

Current chemical safety data sheets
Chemical inventory up to date in the OnSite system
Eyewash and shower flushed every week and documented
Chemical inventory up to data in the OnSite system
Current chemical safety data sheets
Chemicals properly stored (see hazard color code system, below)
Containers labeled with full names of their contents and the hazard
Chemical containers tightly closed when not in immediate use
Training for all lab procedures
All lab staff are wearing PPE and proper clothing and shoes
Hazardous procedures and toxic materials have standard operating procedures
Food and drink are never brought into the lab