

# Office of Public Safety and Security

Environmental Health & Safety | Risk Management & Insurance | Campus Security | Emergency Management & Security Systems

September 2017

## Cultivating Safety in the Laboratory

Whether you are new to working in a laboratory or have dedicated your career to research, your safety and the safety of your fellow workers should be your first priority. Accidents happen quickly and can result in serious injuries. Many injuries or illnesses can easily be prevented by following the simple steps below. A lifetime of experience can be as dangerous as inexperience if complacency becomes a factor—never underestimate the materials with which you work.

- Know the location of the Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and be familiar with the chemicals present in the laboratory.
- Complete appropriate training on NetLearning@uidaho.
- Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply makeup or touch your contact lenses in the laboratory.
- Do not store food/drink in the laboratory.
- Do not touch your face, eyes or mouth in the laboratory.
- Wear appropriate clothing, including long pants and closed-toe shoes.
- Wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g., lab coat, eyewear, gloves, etc.) when working in the laboratory.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly while working in the laboratory and immediately before leaving it. Follow proper handwashing practices.
- Properly label containers used in the laboratory.
- Properly dispose hazardous materials.
- Report and document accidents in the laboratory.
- Know the location of emergency equipment and how to use it (fire extinguisher, first aid kit, eye wash station, safety showers, emergency power shut off, gas line shut off, etc.).
- Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) when necessary.

### Summer Construction Updates

<http://www.uidaho.edu/infrastructure/updates>

### Vandal Alert

Vandal Alert is used to contact the University of Idaho community by email, text messaging and voice in the event of an emergency (such as a weather closure or delay).

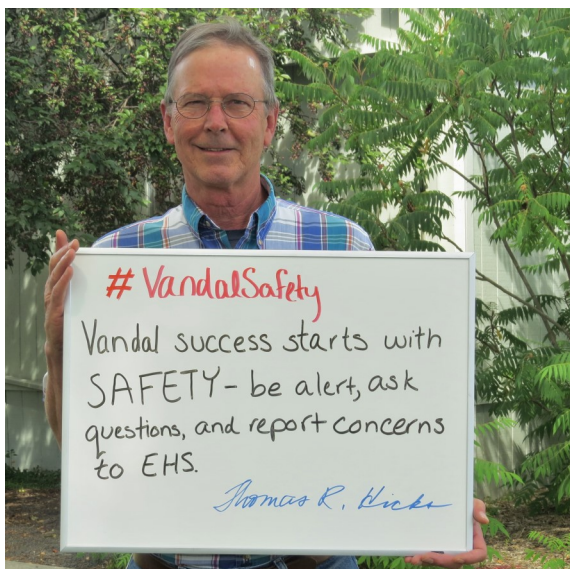
Log in to [VandalWeb](#) to sign up today!

**Safety Is Our #1 Priority**

More information on the Laboratory Safety at the University of Idaho can be found on the Environmental Health and Safety website:

<https://www.uidaho.edu/infrastructure/pps/ehs/safety-programs/laboratory-safety>.

NetLearning@uidaho



## EHS at Upcoming Health and Wellness Fair

Visit the Environmental Health and Safety booth at the Health and Wellness Fair October 11th at the Student Recreation Center (SRC).

Our focus this year is ergonomics - fitting the work space to the employee. We will have a display of adjustable chairs, sit/stand desks, office accessories, and lighting. We will be joined by representatives from Great Spaces.

For the non-office worker, we will be displaying personal protective equipment, vibration reduction tools and adjustable equipment.

Please stop by and enter the drawing for prizes specifically selected for faculty and staff.

If you would like to schedule an ergonomic assessment of your workspace, please send an email to [safety@uidaho.edu](mailto:safety@uidaho.edu) or call 208-885-6524.

We look forward to seeing you on October 11th.

## How to Avoid Hazardous Waste Violations

Hazardous waste violations can be costly, with fines handed out by multiple regulatory agencies. EHS is your partner in complying with these regulations and avoiding violations and fines which can be charged back to your department.

1. Manage hazardous waste generated in your area by:
  - Knowing and following waste management procedures required to accumulate, store and request collection of waste by EHS.
  - Researching the chemicals and materials that will be used and/or stored in your area.
  - Determining which chemicals will be hazardous waste when disposed. Substitute hazardous chemicals with nonhazardous chemicals whenever possible or eliminate them completely.
  - Submitting old chemicals for disposal.
2. Designate a spot in your work area where submitted chemical or hazardous waste is stored. Do not move containers to a new location without consulting EHS.
3. Follow these management procedures for accumulating waste in containers:
  - Select containers that are in good condition and will form tight seals with their closures.
  - Do not use food or other flimsy containers not manufactured to contain chemicals.
  - Select an appropriately sized container for your project (one that will be filled within a few weeks).
  - Containers must be clean of chemical residue.
  - A container must be compatible with the waste accumulated in it.
  - ALL containers must be labeled properly to eliminate the generation of unknowns.
  - Log all quantities (and concentration as appropriate) added to containers used to accumulate a variety of chemicals (the log must be immediately available for inspection). This will be used to calculate the final concentrations of all constituents.
  - Containers MUST be closed at all times, except when adding waste.

### Do You Wear a Respirator in Your Workspace?



Respirators protect workers against insufficient oxygen environments, harmful dusts, fogs, smokes, mists, gases, vapors and sprays. These hazards may cause cancer, lung impairment, diseases, or death. Because of these hazards, UI EHS provides guidance & hands on training to people who use respirators on campus to protect themselves. It is important to make sure that you understand the hazards and limitations when using a respirator.

Please contact EHS if you are a UI student, staff or faculty who uses a respirator at work and are not currently enrolled in the Respiratory Protection Program.

208-885-5845

- Containers in service cannot also be labeled as "EMPTY" or with the original label (dual labels).
  - Store waste containers in a tub or other compatible basin to catch potential spills or leaks. Keep containers near the area of generation.
4. Submit waste frequently to avoid excessive accumulation of full waste containers.
  5. Follow up with EHS on containers that are not collected within a few weeks.

Do not hesitate to contact EHS for additional assistance.  
208-885-6524; [safety@uidaho.edu](mailto:safety@uidaho.edu)

### Insuring Equipment Used in Water

UI Risk can now offer units coverage for equipment used on or in water as a part of the property coverage through the State of Idaho. The coverage is for the replacement cost of the item and is subject to a \$2,000 deductible.

Examples of items eligible for coverage include underwater vehicles, sensors used in water, water velocity measuring devices, pumps, water camera, and topographical survey equipment, etc.

Units must schedule with UI Risk Management and Insurance the items they wish to have covered by completing the [Equipment Used in Water form](http://www.uidaho.edu/infrastructure/pss/forms/equipment-used-in-water) (<http://www.uidaho.edu/infrastructure/pss/forms/equipment-used-in-water>) found on Risk's website.

Please contact [risk@uidaho.edu](mailto:risk@uidaho.edu) with any questions.

### On the Horizon

First Aid/CPR/AED classes are held on the first Friday morning of every month, 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Facilities Complex. Please contact EHS for more information and to register.

208-885-2937

October 1: Laboratory Safety Commitment Program walk-throughs begin; please contact EHS for assistance in addressing the five target areas if needed.

208-885-5977

October 11: Come see EHS at the SRC for the Health and Wellness Fair, where we will be focusing on ergonomics and personal protective equipment.

## Public Safety & Security Contacts

Office of Public Safety & Security	208-885-2254
Campus Security	208-885-7054
Emergency Management & Security Systems	208-885-7179
Environmental Health & Safety	208-885-6524
Risk Management & Insurance	208-885-7177
Safe Walk	208-885-7054

## Safe Walk

Don't want to walk across campus alone? Campus Security will accompany students, faculty, and/or staff across campus to make sure they can safely traverse the campus without fear of personal harm. Call 208-885-7054 to make arrangements.