

## 2018 EH&S Lab Safety Roundtable Summary

September 11, 2018

Safety Concern	Response
<p><b>Who is the designated Laser Safety Officer (LSO)? I am trying to purchase a small laser and have not had a response.</b></p>	<p>Dr. David Roelant is the LSO. If you are seeking approval to purchase or use a laser device, please contact Dr. Roelant at 348-6625 or contact EH&amp;S at <a href="mailto:ehs@fiu.edu">ehs@fiu.edu</a>, SUBJECT: Laser Purchase Approval.</p>
<p><b>There is only one pull station for the entire AHC4 building. Lab occupants must exit through a specific stairwell to access the pull station. This issue was brought up prior to and during the 2017 roundtable.</b></p> <p><b>The lab occupants feel the need for this safety control however, no conclusions/resolutions have been found.</b></p> <p><b>EH&amp;S, FMD, and the State Fire Marshalls office have been involved in the past; the findings indicated the building did not require additional pull stations due to its classification as an animal facility. The space occupants were advised to pay for the installation if they felt there was a need for one.</b></p>	<p>EH&amp;S will work with Facilities Management to find solutions for the ongoing concern. EH&amp;S will keep occupants informed of any updates/changes.</p>
<p><b>The water from the AHC1 eyewash and safety shower units located in the hallway is brown. This matter has been brought up in the past and has not been resolved.</b></p>	<p>The brownish appearance of the water is due to how the water is contained in the unit and pipes. Ideally, the units should be run once a week to prevent settling. EH&amp;S will work with Facilities and lab occupants to coordinate weekly or monthly flushing of the units.</p> <p>Issues with any unit should be reported to Facilities Management by placing a work order (<a href="mailto:workmanagement@fiu.edu">workmanagement@fiu.edu</a> or 348-4600) and reported to EH&amp;S (348-3387).</p>
<p><b>There are no eyewash or safety showers installed AHC2, where there are large academic lab spaces. The space occupants installed gravity eye wash stations, but it might not be enough.</b></p>	<p>EH&amp;S will meet with Facilities pertaining to this issue. EH&amp;S will keep occupants informed of any updates/changes.</p>
<p><b>What should be done if there are no eyewash/safety showers in your space?</b></p>	<p>Contact EH&amp;S at <a href="mailto:ehs@fiu.edu">ehs@fiu.edu</a>, SUBJECT: Eyewash/Safety Shower. EH&amp;S will assess the space and work with Facilities, ORED, and Academic Space Management (ASM) to determine the next step.</p>
<p><b>What should be done about eyewash/safety shower stations that do not have drains by them?</b></p>	<p>Report missing drains to EH&amp;S at <a href="mailto:ehs@fiu.edu">ehs@fiu.edu</a>, SUBJECT: Eyewash/Safety Shower. Include the location, number of units with missing drains, and the type of space (research or academic). EH&amp;S will assess the space and work with</p>

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	Facilities, ORED, and ASM to determine the next step.
<b>What are the procedures for getting a fume hood cleaned? The light switch is faulty and there is excessive dust accumulation.</b>	Contact Facilities Work Management (348-4600 or <a href="mailto:workmanagement@fiu.edu">workmanagement@fiu.edu</a> ) to place a work order.
<b>What are the procedures for disposal of P-listed waste? What are the procedures for disposing of an empty p-listed waste bottle?</b>	Please contact the Environmental Compliance Specialist for questions pertaining to P-listed waste disposal at 348-2622.
<b>I manage a food preparation lab where hot plates and other items are used. Are we required to have a hot work permits?</b>	A hot work permit is usually not required for cooking operations. Please contact the Fire Safety Specialist for more information or to schedule an assessment at 348-0490.
<b>Does using a furnace/exhaust require a hot work permit?</b>	No, use of the furnace does not require a hot work permit.
<b>Does using a Bunsen burner require a hot work permit? Labs use Bunsen burners for sterile techniques.</b>	An assessment of the space and procedures is required to determine if a hot work permit is required. Please contact the Fire Safety Specialist for more information or to schedule an assessment at 348-0490.
<b>Can we use extension cords temporarily?</b>	<b>Extension cord use is not permitted.</b> If extension cord use is absolutely necessary, please contact the Fire Safety Specialist at 348-0490. There are certain requirements to ensure that the extension cord is appropriate for the intended use.
<b>Can we utilize extension cords in the event of an emergency? We do not have a sufficient amount of emergency outlets OR the outlet is located too far from the equipment. We were told that we would have to pay for the installation of additional outlets.</b>	Per Emergency Management, extension cords should not be used to connect equipment to emergency outlets, especially during a hurricane. The equipment should already be connected. Per ORED, users can request to have the emergency outlets relocated to an outlet closer to the equipment.
<b>The hazardous waste charges are not communicated to the lab occupants until it is too late or their budget has been spent/exhausted. Is it possible to have EHS provide the breakdown of the charges? How can we verify that the hazardous waste charges from ORED are accurate?</b>	Hazardous waste is processed and paid for in bulk – the charges are not separated or itemized by area. Please speak with your departmental budget manager to determine what percentage is paid for by your area.
<b>Is there a charge to dispose of empty bottles (that previously contained hazardous chemicals)?</b>	Yes, if the container is still contaminated with hazardous chemicals AND it does not meet the “empty container” requirements, the bottle will be disposed of and charged as hazardous waste. EH&S encourages users to recycle the containers for hazardous waste collection – as long as the waste is compatible with the original contents in

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	<p>the container. For more information, contact the Environmental Compliance Specialist at 348-2622.</p>
<b>What is the bung wrench for?</b>	<p>The bung wrench is used to tighten the caps on drum waste containers.</p>
<b>When cleaning glassware, what is the proper procedure for eliminating the residual soapy water?</b>	<p>If the glassware contained less than 1 inch of chemical liquid prior to cleaning, the residual soapy water from cleaning the glassware is safe to go down the sink. Please contact the Environmental Compliance Specialist at 348-2622 if you have additional questions.</p>
<b>For Controlled substances and relabeling of containers: how far do we need to track this? What is the concentration threshold? What are the procedures for disposal of waste?</b>	<p>Controlled substances are disposed of through approved reverse distributors. Please contact Lab Safety if you require assistance with this at 348-3387.</p> <p>EH&amp;S will confirm the requirements for documenting dilutions of controlled substances.</p>
<b>Is there a way that EH&amp;S can regulate the use of chemicals in lab areas? Or a tracking system to ensure chemicals are utilized appropriately? There are times when other users leave chemicals on bench tops and the fumes are dispersed throughout the building through the recirculating air flow. The HVAC in the buildings recirculate air which is not a safe working environment. Occupants have reported this to Facilities, but the smell is often gone by the time they arrive onsite.</b>	<p>EH&amp;S conducts safety and compliance inspections to ensure that users are taking the appropriate steps to protect themselves and others from potential exposures.</p> <p>Please contact EH&amp;S to investigate situations involving improper chemical use/handling. Concerns can also be submitted anonymously through FIU Convercent: <a href="https://compliance.fiu.edu/convercent.html">https://compliance.fiu.edu/convercent.html</a></p> <p>Report odors to Facilities Management (348-4600) and EH&amp;S. EH&amp;S will conduct an assessment with Facilities to determine the cause and address the issue. To report an indoor air quality concern, contact EH&amp;S Lab Safety (348-3387) or EH&amp;S General Safety (348-7835).</p>
<b>For shared spaces, who should fill out the LSA?</b>	<p>All users of the space should complete and submit one LSA. Sharing this responsibly ensures that all users are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Aware of the hazards used and stored in the space.</li><li>2. Held accountable for what activities they conduct in the space and what they use in the space.</li></ol> <p>Sharing this information increases awareness and ensures a safer working environment for all.</p>
<b>For the LSA, if we only utilize the space once a week for 3 hours and do not store any hazards,</b>	<p>The occupant that uses the space for the majority of the time AND who is familiar with the items</p>

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<b>are we required to complete the LSA for the space?</b>	stored in the lab space should complete and submit the LSA.
<b>Do we need to remove our PPE every time we leave a lab? What if we are going down the hall? Or to another floor? Or even another room? Does this include lab coats?</b>	PPE should be removed if you are going to a public use area such as elevators, stairs, open hallways that have shared use (both offices and lab spaces). If you are going down the hallway to another lab space, the PPE (including lab coats) should not be grossly contaminated, and the one glove rule should be followed. This is to prevent potential contamination of clean areas.
<b>Are there procedures for removing PPE when relocating samples from one lab to another?</b>	The one glove rule should be followed. For more information on the one glove rule, click <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Custodial staff do not change their gloves when they move from lab to lab. They also do not remove their gloves when using public areas (elevators, doors, etc.).</b>	EH&S will speak with custodial supervisors and ensure that custodial personnel are properly trained on PPE use and removal during the general safety training.
<b>When placing a work order to clean the floors of a lab space, FMD sends staff to polish, not clean, the floors. The users need the floors swept and mopped. How do we get our spaces cleaned? Is there a cleaning schedule that can be applied? Are the users responsible for cleaning their own floors?</b>	Initially, custodial services were instructed not to clean inside the labs due to the sensitive equipment and other complaints. EH&S will meet with Custodial Services to determine the best approach to this matter. <b>NOTE:</b> Lab users are responsible for cleaning lab benches, equipment, etc., and any spills that may occur within the lab space.
<b>How do we apply the secondary containment GHS labeling rule to smaller containers? It is often too small to replicate the information on the bottles/vials.</b>	The vials can be placed in a container with the required GHS labeling on the outside of the container.
<b>There is a shared refrigerator in the area that has a questionable odor. Is there a way to have it inspected and cleaned?</b>	EH&S can assist with determining the cause of the smell. All users will be responsible for identifying the items stored in the refrigerator and disposing of items as necessary.
<b>Our shop/lab/space utilizes concrete and other powders to create mixes. These materials cause excessive dust/debris and can clog up the air filters.</b>	Concrete and other powders should be mixed outside in a well-ventilated area. EH&S will schedule to conduct an assessment of the space to determine the best solution.
<b>The lab occupants as well as building occupants are greatly affected by the air quality in AHC1. We have not been given a status update. We will we have an update on what is happening?</b>	An update on the status of AHC1 will be provided by Facilities Management. The update will include a remediation plan for the building which is expected to last approximately 3-5 months. For additional questions or concerns, please contact Enrique Badia at 348-7835.
<b>Who should we contact about not having enough lab space? There are people sharing</b>	Please contact the Office of Research (ORED) pertaining to this matter. ORED is in charge of assigning FIU research space.

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<b>spaces and there is not enough room for equipment or personnel.</b>	
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