



Florida International University | Department Of Environmental Health & Safety | ehs@fiu.edu

Are you ready for the Hurricane and Summer Season? Hurricane Season is from June 1st – November 30th, 2022, and Summer Season is June 21st – September 22nd, 2022. As our sunny Florida climate continues to heat up, EH&S wants to ensure you and all FIU Laboratories are adequately prepared for the upcoming months. Visit the EH&S Website for more information here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/>

Are you ready?

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Newsletter Highlights

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Access and Update Your Chemical Inventory

EH&S SAFETY EXPO TABLING EVENTS

Join us to learn more about our safety programs, meet the team, ask questions, and learn more about safety!

Come Meet Us from 11 AM to 2 PM



June 2 @ MMC GC Panther Pit

June 7 @ EC West Lobby

June 9 @ BBC MSB Room 105

June 14 @ CTS Main Lobby



Check out our Announcements Webpage for more information and upcoming events: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/announcements/index.html>

ESSENTIAL SUMMER TIPS

The summer season begins June 21st, but we are already experiencing hotter temperatures in South Florida. Below are some essential summer safety tips that will help beat the heat!



IT IS HOT! – Know the signs of heat illnesses (Heat Rash, Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke) and listen to your body; seek medical attention if necessary. Check out the CDC’s guide, which explains what to look for and what to do:

https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/images/Heat_Related_Illness.jpg



HYDRATE! – Stay hydrated by drinking lots of fluids, and if engaged in high-intensity workouts or exposed to heat for prolonged periods, consider drinking electrolytes or coconut water.



PROTECT YOUR SKIN! – Protecting your skin from the sun’s UV rays by applying sunscreen and wearing protective clothing, brimmed hats, and sunglasses. Keep the insects away with insect repellent containing DEET.

SUMMER LABORATORY SAFETY REMINDERS

Now that summer is here, take the time to look over your space, and make the necessary improvements to ensure a great start to the Fall Semester. Here are some friendly summer safety reminders:

- Clean out any old chemicals by requesting a Hazardous Waste Pick-up: <https://webforms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=1106186>
- Inventory and label the freezer and refrigerator samples.
- Check access logs and remove anyone that is no longer working in the space.
- Review the Training Certificates. Check EH&S’s General Training Matrix for the required trainings and the renewal frequency: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/assets/docs/training/ehsdoc607.00-required-training-laboratories.pdf>
- Visually inspect your lab to remove clutter, surplus items, and report any facility issues.
- Remind staff to wear proper attire (covered limbs and feet), wear PPE as required, and not to eat or drink in the laboratories.



PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON

Hurricane Season starts today, and it is imperative for FIU laboratories to review and update plans and standard operating procedures. Below are some items to consider; for additional information review the “FIU Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines for Lab Areas”: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/assets/docs/lab-safety/hurricane-preparedness-guidelines-lab.pdf>

- Update the Emergency Procedures specifically the Emergency Shutdown Procedures. Include any new hazardous materials, equipment, or lab personnel. (Emergency Procedures include Hazardous Spill, Incident/Injury, Evacuation, and Shutdown).
 - NOTE: Emergency Shutdown Procedures differ from Evacuation Procedures in that Shutdowns are planned and Evacuations are rapid responses. Ensure the Shutdown Procedures incorporate the safe shutdown of experiments, procedures, and equipment and secure laboratory hazards properly. Find Emergency Shutdown Guidelines here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/assets/docs/lab-safety/ehs-doc611.00-emergency-shutdown-guidelines-2020.12.21.pdf>
- Update emergency phone numbers. Update lab personnel personal home and cell numbers.
- Check emergency spill kits & first-aid kits, and make sure all equipment and PPE are in good condition. Replenish items as needed.
- Have extra warning labels appropriate for the hazardous materials in the lab. If you need ‘Compressed Gas Cylinder Stage of Use’ Tags, ‘Hazardous Waste’ Labels, or ‘Restricting Chemical Discharge’ Stickers, request them here: https://fiu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwOSOG9pMg2wNw2
- Ensure all chemical and waste containers are properly labeled and secured in secondary containment.
- Request Hazardous Waste Pickups here: <https://webforms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=1106186>
- Request Biohazardous Waste Pickups here: <https://webforms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=988549>
- Check Gas Cylinders storage and quantity.
- Visually inspect your laboratory and make sure vital equipment is plugged into emergency backup outlets, normally red outlets are connected to the building’s generator in case of power outages.

ACCESS AND UPDATE YOUR CHEMICAL INVENTORY

In 2021, the EHS Chemical Inventory Tracking System was launched to better track and manage laboratories’ chemical inventories. EH&S requires all FIU spaces that use, store, or produce chemicals to maintain accurate and current inventories in this new system.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Laboratory Safety Team, found here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/laboratory/index.html#6>

Access the EHS Chemical Inventory Tracking System here: <https://ehsinventory.fiu.edu/>



Visit the EH&S Laboratory Safety webpage for more information, found [here](#).

Reach out with any questions or concerns: ehs@fiu.edu.