ARE YOU READY FOR THE HURRICANE AND SUMMER SEASON? Hurricane Season is from June 1st – November 30th, and Summer Season is June 21st – September 22nd. The sun is hot, and we are anticipating another hot summer. It is important for FIU to ensure its facilities are prepared for the upcoming season.

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Laboratory Safety Team, found here:

Keep accurate and current inventories in this new system. EH&S requires all FIU spaces that use, store, or produce chemicals to maintain accurate and current inventories in this new system.

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Join Us at The EH&S Safety Expo Tabling Event

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:

- 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.
- Check Gas Cylinders storage and quantity.
- Request Biohazardous Waste Pickups here: https://webforms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=988549
- Ensure all chemical and waste containers are properly labeled and secured in secondary containment.
- 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
- Update the Emergency Procedures specifically the Emergency Shutdown Procedures. Include any new hazardous materials, equipment, or lab personnel. (Emergency Procedures include Hazardous Spill, Incidents/Fires, Evacuation, and Shutdowns).
- 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/hurricane-preparedness-guidelines-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.
- IT IS HOT! – Know the signs of heat illnesses (Heat Rash, Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke) and look for 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.
- SAFE SHUTDOWN – Start with a thorough inspection of your lab, check gas flows, and ensure emergency phone numbers are up-to-date.
- 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.
- HYDRATE! – Stay hydrated by drinking lots of fluids, and if engaged in high-intensity workouts or exposed to heat for prolonged periods, consider drinking electrolyte or coconut water.
- PREVENT BURNS! – Keep foods and beverages away from hot surfaces, and keep flammable materials, such as paper, away from stoves and ovens.
- IT IS HOT! – Know the signs of heat illnesses (Heat Rash, Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heat Stroke). Check out the CDC’s guide, which explains what to look for and what to do:
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PREPARING FOR HURRICANE SEASON

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