



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

EH&S wishes everyone and their families' happy holidays and a happy new year! In this newsletter, EH&S welcomes the New Chemical Safety Officer, covers what to expect now that the LSA has ended, outlines satellite accumulation area compliance for the collection of hazardous waste, and provides reminders on needle stick safety. Winners for the EH&S Virtual Escape Experience (chosen at random) will be selected and notified on December 1st. EH&S encourages everyone to participate as new winners are chosen each semester. Check out the EH&S website for detailed information relating to the topics covered in this newsletter and other safety programs and procedures at <https://ehs.fiu.edu/>

Newsletter Highlights

**New Chemical Safety Officer
Margarita Kotzer**

LSA Ends, What To Expect

**Satellite Accumulation Area
Compliance**

Needlestick Safety

Chemical Safety Officer: Margarita Kotzer

Join EH&S in welcoming our New Chemical Safety Officer, Margarita Kotzer! Margarita has over ten years of laboratory and analytical chemistry experience. Margarita will oversee the Chemical Safety Program, including Chemical Inventory and other compliance programs as she joins the Environmental Health and Safety Team.

Welcome Margarita Kotzer!



The Laboratory Self-Audit Ends, What To Expect?

The Laboratory Self Audit (LSA) ended on November 30th, 2022.

What is next? EH&S is analyzing the 2022 LSA data set to identify participation and top compliance gaps to develop educational initiatives. EH&S is also cross-referencing this data with FIU space's master list and the previous LSA's to identify locations that have not participated. If you did not participate or are unsure if your space is required to complete an LSA, please reach out to EH&S at ehs@fiu.edu.

Additionally, the Safety Officers that oversee hazardous safety programs will receive a report summarizing the responses relating to the programs they oversee. The safety officers will utilize this information to formulate campaigns and projects to increase overall knowledge and safety university-wide. EH&S will schedule meetings with participants that have significant compliance issues to provide guidance and support.

If you would like a summary of your participation, please contact ehs@fiu.edu. EH&S will publish an infographic of the 2022 LSA data set on the EH&S Lab Self Audit webpage, which can be found here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/laboratory/index.html#4>



Hazardous Waste Satellite Accumulation Area Compliance

A Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA) is an established location for accumulating hazardous waste. For more information about hazardous waste, review the [Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#). An established SAA is required for spaces that generate hazardous waste. At FIU, all hazardous waste must be collected in an SAA; to dispose of the hazardous waste, the space must initiate a pick-up request. **NOTHING IS PERMITTED TO BE DISPOSED OF DOWN THE SINK OR THROUGH THE DRAIN SYSTEM.** Neutralization or dilution is not permitted at FIU; all hazardous materials must be stored, used, and collected according to the [Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#).

Here is a quick guide for establishing an SAA

Locations Shall:

- Be near the point of generation.
- Be in the same room.
- Fit the secondary containment vessel(s)
- Only store compatible hazardous waste (within the appropriate secondary containment vessel)
- Only store hazardous waste (other storage is permitted).

Location Shall Not:

- Block access to emergency equipment
- Hinder or protrude into the aisles
- Be by open drains or sinks.
- Be located in an elevated area (tables, benches, cabinets)
- Pose a danger to space occupants.
- Be located near incompatible operations

Documents, Signage, and Perimeter Markings

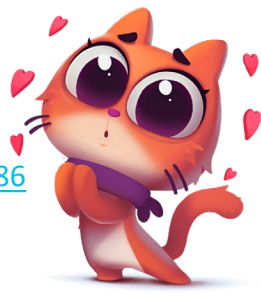
- EH&S provides all of the required documents and signages that must be displayed
- Reach out to EH&S via email to obtain the packet of documents: ehs@fiu.edu
- Review the signage, labeling, and documents requirements here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/assets/docs/environmental-compliance/lab-waste-satellite-accumulation.pdf>
- The perimeter of the SAA must be marked and kept clear of all other storage.

Containment

- Container selection must be made of materials compatible with containing hazardous waste. For more information, see the [Hazardous Waste Management Plan](#).
- The containers must be intact (no leaking), clean (no spillage or drips), cannot be corroded, and must have a cap (no beakers or flasks).
- It is a violation for any of the containers to have leaks, spills, drips, corrosion, or uncapped containers.
- The containers must not be overfilled.
- The containers must be segregated by hazardous class in secondary containment (if there are multiple hazard classes, then multiple secondary containment are required).

Hazardous Waste Labels on the Containers

- All Hazardous Waste containers must have a hazardous waste label provided by EH&S.
- Request hazardous waste labels here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/resources/index.html#3>
- Filling out the Hazardous Waste Labels
- Only date the label once the pick-up request has been submitted.
- Request a Hazardous Waste pick-up here: <https://webforms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=1106186>
- Ensure the type of material is correct and equals 100%.
- Ensure the full chemical name is written and not the abbreviation, letter, or formula.



Common Violations

- Dating the label at the start of accumulation/collection of hazardous waste.
 - The date indicates the date the Pick-up request was submitted. EH&S has 72 hours to pick up the waste from that date. Do not date the label until the hazardous waste pick-up request has been submitted.
- Using the chemical abbreviation or formula instead of the full chemical name.
 - The full chemical name must be written on the hazardous waste label to ensure no confusion or misunderstandings occur. Ensuring safety and avoiding miscommunication for all the entities involved in the disposal process is imperative.
- Containers are corroded, leaking, or not designed with a cap/lid.
 - Containers must be undamaged and designed with a cap or lid.
 - If the container is leaking or drips, EH&S will not pick it up because it poses a danger of spilling.
 - If the container is corroded, EH&S will not pick it up because it poses a spill or leakage hazard.
 - If the container is not designed with a cap (like a beaker or a flask), EH&S will not pick it up because it poses a spill or leakage hazard. Unless it is being filled, containers in the SAA must be capped at all times.

Needlestick Safety

Needlesticks are wounds caused by needles or sharp objects (scalpels, razors, or broken glass) puncturing the skin. Injury can occur when you use, disassemble, or dispose of these items. Sometimes an injury can occur through unexpected encounters (e.g., improper disposal, unruly patient, etc.).

Safe Handling Of Needles

- DO NOT shear, bend, break, or recap a needle.
- Once a needle has been utilized, DO NOT leave it unattended on the counter.
- Dispose of all needles in a sharps container or a biohazard sharps container, depending on the type of use.
 - If you do not have a sharps container, contact ehs@fiu.edu for more information.
- DO NOT DISPOSE OF NEEDLES IN THE TRASH.

If you have an injury from a needle, follow the spaces Emergency Incident/Injury Procedures. Then submit an Exposure Incident Report found here: <https://webforms.fiu.edu/view.php?id=992783>.



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

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