



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

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day! In this newsletter, EH&S covers requirements and recommendations for new laboratory community members, FIU's policy on the treatment of chemicals, emergency wash unit inspections, and the upcoming Lab Safety Awareness Week. EH&S plans to host two safety seminars during Lab Safety Awareness Week, which will be February 13 – 17, 2023.

Check out the EH&S website for detailed information on the topics covered in this newsletter and other safety programs and procedures at <https://ehs.fiu.edu/>.

Newsletter Highlights

Upcoming: Lab Safety Awareness Week

New To The FIU Laboratory Community?

Treatment of Chemicals

Emergency Wash Units

Upcoming: Lab Safety Awareness Week

Lab Safety Awareness Week is **February 13 – 17, 2023**. EH&S plans to host seminars to increase awareness of essential programs and promote safe working environments.

Join us at the following events:

- An in-person seminar in WC 130 will be hosted on **February 13th at 1:00 PM**, with light refreshments.
- A Zoom meeting will be hosted on **February 16th at 11:00 AM**.

Join the Zoom meeting by scanning the QR code below, or consider joining the EH&S Lab Listserv.



The EH&S Lab Listserv is an email list for the laboratory community where EH&S emails about important information and upcoming events. It is free to join, and members can be added or removed upon request. Request to join or ask for more information by emailing EH&S at ehs@fiu.edu.

Are You New To The FIU Laboratory Community?

New Principal Investigator or Laboratory Manager?

Welcome to FIU! EH&S wants to make sure you have a successful start with your research operations. [The New Principal Investigator or Lab Manager Safety Compliance Form](#) is an easy-to-follow checklist constructed to ensure that EH&S supports all research operations through our Safety Programs and that you have completed all the requirements before conducting work in the space. The instructions include the following:



- Requesting to be added to the EH&S email group, where EH&S sends out pertinent information.
- Requesting Emergency Laboratory Signage
- Completing required EH&S Training
- Conducting on-the-job Safety Training with all space occupants
- Reviewing required EH&S documents
- Obtaining Access to the Chemical Inventory Program
- Identifying Special Hazards (this will alert the correct EH&S Program Manager to help ensure the safe use of the hazard in the space).

The form can be found on the EH&S website (ehs.fiu.edu), then the Resources Tab, under the Forms heading, and within the Laboratory Safety Forms drill down, or by clicking on this link.

IMPORTANT! The form must be completed and submitted to EH&S prior to commencing operations within the space; it can be printed or filled out electronically but must be submitted through email to ehs@fiu.edu.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email ehs@fiu.edu.

New Laboratory Staff?

Welcome to FIU! Even if you are support staff, EH&S recommends reviewing the Form named [New Principal Investigator or Laboratory Manager Safety Compliance Form](#) because some requirements apply. For example:

- Requesting to be added to the EH&S email group, where EH&S sends out pertinent information.
- Completing required EH&S Training
- Obtaining on-the-job Safety Training from the Principal Investigator or Laboratory Manager
- Reviewing required EH&S documents

If you have any questions or concerns, please email ehs@fiu.edu.

Treatment Of Chemicals (Dilution/Neutralization) At FIU

Treatment of chemicals is **PROHIBITED** at FIU per the policies and permits held by FIU. Treatment of chemicals includes diluting a chemical or neutralizing an acid or base. Our current permits require FIU to collect all chemical and hazardous waste and utilize a permitted outside vendor to collect and transport waste out of FIU to their treatment facility. FIU is not a treatment facility and is not authorized to treat chemicals; also, chemicals are prohibited from entering the sewer system.

Stop immediately if you are diluting or neutralizing chemicals and disposing of them through the sink (or any other plumbed unit connected to the sewer system).

EH&S has a hazardous waste program that collects waste throughout all FIU's sites (i.e., MMC, BBC, EC, etc.). EH&S utilizes an authorized and permitted vendor that collects and transports the waste to its treatment facilities.

For more information about the [Hazardous Waste Program](#), visit our website, email us, or call us.

- Website: go to <https://ehs.fiu.edu/> > then click or hover over the "Safety Programs" Tab > then select "Environmental Compliance" > then select or scroll down to the "Hazardous Waste" section.

OR click here: <https://ehs.fiu.edu/safety-programs/environmental-compliance/index.html#3>

- Email us at ehs@fiu.edu

- Call us (305) 348-1331, Program Coordinator, [Paola Ferrer](#)



Emergency Wash Units

Emergency Wash Units are designed to provide water to wash or flush away hazardous substances that have come in contact with the skin or eyes. They are typically located in areas that handle or store hazardous chemicals or if a splash hazard exists. At FIU, there are various emergency wash units (i.e., eye washes, safety showers, squeeze bottles, handheld sink-mounted units, gravity eye washes, etc.). EH&S is currently conducting the annual inspections of these units. Here are some things you can do to ensure your unit is working properly and in compliance.

- Check the units for any damage periodically (i.e., cracks, breaks, leaks, etc.).
- Activate the plumbed units (i.e., eye washes, handheld eyewashes, and safety showers) weekly as outlined by the American National Standards Institute. This will help clear the lines from any sediment/buildup.
 - Some units may discharge directly onto the floor, creating a slip or fall hazard. Make sure to have clean-up equipment ready to contain and dry up the water (i.e., a mop and bucket, wet vacuum, sufficient paper towels, etc.).
- Do not block unit access or drainage. Ensure the unit is always kept clear. No obstructions are permitted within a radius of 3 feet around the unit to ensure access.
- Do not clog up the discharge pipe with anything.

Remember that emergency wash units are the second line of defense. You should always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (i.e., safety glasses/goggles, lab coats, long pants, and closed-toed shoes) to prevent or lessen the impact of a splash or a spill.

If you have a unit that has not been inspected in the past year, please contact EH&S through email at ehs@fiu.edu.



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

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