Safety Training History

All laboratory personnel now have the ability to review their entire safety training history through the Environmental Health and Safety website. To check your safety training history go to this link: http://www.ehs.neu.edu/training/training_request. After you log in you will find a bar you can click to produce a PDF document that will show your entire training history.

Normal Clothing in the Laboratory

Summer weather is here so everyone should be reminded about appropriate clothing in the laboratory. The Chemical Hygiene Plan states the following:

2.3.2.1 Normal clothing worn in the laboratory. Where there is no immediate danger to the skin from contact with a hazardous chemical it is still prudent to select clothing to minimize exposed skin surfaces. Laboratory personnel should wear long sleeved/long legged clothing and avoid short sleeved shirts, short trousers or skirts. A laboratory coat should be worn over street clothes and be laundered regularly. A laboratory coat is intended to prevent contact with dirt, chemical dusts and minor chemical splashes or spills. If it becomes contaminated, it should be removed immediately and the affected skin surface washed thoroughly. Shoes should be worn in the laboratory at all times. Sandals and perforated shoes are not appropriate. In addition, long hair and loose clothing should be confined. When personnel are in laboratories that are actively handling hazardous chemicals, use of appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment will be strictly enforced.
SUMMER LABORATORY SAFETY UPDATE

Alternatives to Bunsen Burners and Alcohol Lamps in a Biosafety Cabinet

Bunsen burners and alcohol lamps are not recommended for use in biological safety cabinets. Concerns with their use include:

- Requires a central gas source
- Creates a safety hazard when left burning
- Continuously burning flame disturbs airflow
- Can cause heat damage to cabinet structure

Fortunately, there are alternatives to Bunsen burners and alcohol lamps for sterilizing inoculating loops, test tube lips and Petri dish lids. Today’s safety burners are fueled with propane/butane gas cartridges or use electricity and are much safer to use in biological safety cabinets. Please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at x2769 or ehs@neu.edu if you would like additional information.

Know Where Your Emergency Eyewash / Safety Shower Station is Located.

Whenever chemicals have the possibility of damaging the skin or eyes, an emergency supply of water must be available. Most Northeastern University laboratories have an emergency eyewash / safety shower so it’s important that you keep in mind the following:

- Be sure you know the locations of the nearest safety shower and eye wash station in any lab you work in.
- Keep all passageways to the eyewash and shower clear of any obstacle (even a temporarily parked chemical cart).