

LAB

NOTES

Safety Newsletter for Lab Workers

UCSD Environment, Health & Safety Office

Minors in UCSD Laboratories

Principal investigators, if you permit minors (under 18 years of age) to carry out research activities in your laboratory, **you must obtain authorization and observe specific restrictions and procedures.**

Read "Minors in UCSD Laboratories" on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/minorsinlabs> for complete details on the requirements you must follow, age restrictions, and PI responsibilities.

Balance the advantages of scientific experiences for young scientists with the need for safety. Questions? Contact EH&S at ehschem@ucsd, (858) 534-3660.

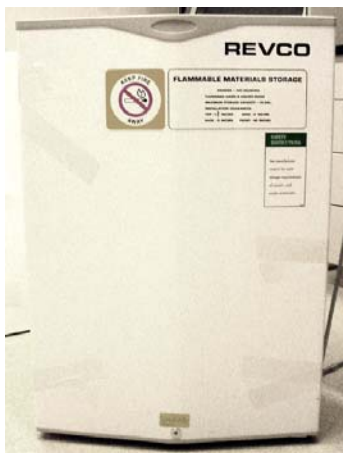
Special Refrigerators for Flammable Liquids Storage

Never store flammable liquids of any volume in a standard or domestic refrigerator or freezer. They have numerous ignition sources that could ignite vapors. Flammable liquids that must be chilled or frozen **require** special flammable storage refrigerators or freezers to minimize the risk of fire or explosion.

Flammable storage refrigerators are available from many commercial manufacturers. Two types of flammable storage units are commercially available:

- Flammable storage refrigerators and freezers have no exposed ignition sources inside the cabinet, such as lights or switches, that could ignite vapors.
- An explosion-proof refrigerator or freezer may be required in rare circumstances in hazardous locations.

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Where's Your Eye Wash and Douse Shower?

You protect yourself from accidental chemical exposures by wearing eye protection, lab coats, gloves, and closed-toe shoes in laboratories. But if a hazardous chemical spills onto your skin, soaks your clothing, or splashes your eyes, you need a douse shower or eye wash immediately.

Every researcher should know the location of the nearest eye wash and douse shower (EW/DS), how to use it, and be confident it is accessible and functions properly.

What you can do

- Practice finding your EW/DS blindfolded (a chemical splash to the eyes may temporarily blind a person).
- Know how to turn on your EW/DS blindfolded. Ask your Area Safety Coordinator for assistance.
- Keep the area clear around your EW/DS.
- Cover eye wash spouts with caps to keep them clean (caps should be easy to remove in an emergency).
- Keep a sheet, blanket, or lab coat in the lab for privacy and warmth (when a hazardous chemical spills on clothing, the clothes have to come off).
- Check the inspection tag date to make sure testing is current. EH&S tests your EW/DS monthly. Contact EH&S if you find a problem with your equipment: (858) 534-3660.
- Note: Do not use the douse hoses located on some research sinks for emergency eye washing. These units are not maintained by EH&S.

continued on back ... see Eye Wash/Douse Shower



Eye Wash/Douse Shower ... continued

How to use an EW/DS in an emergency

- **Immediately flush the affected area with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes.** The water may be cold and uncomfortable, but stay with it.
- **Remove contaminated clothing.** Helpers can use a sheet, blanket, or clean lab coat to provide privacy and warmth.
- **Keep the eyes open** if an eye wash is used. An injured person may need help holding their eyelids open.
- **Seek medical attention immediately** after flushing. Have someone bring or fax the Material Safety Data Sheet for the chemical to the doctor.

How others in the lab can help

- Collect or contain the runoff water.
- Call Physical Plant Services as soon as possible to collect water where drains are not installed: (858) 534-2930.
- Notify EH&S when a chemical exposure occurs: (858) 534-3660.

Note: Some outdoor eye washes and douse showers may run discolored water (rust) for a few seconds. **Don't hesitate to use them immediately** when needed. The first 10 to 15 seconds after exposure to a hazardous chemical (especially a corrosive chemical) are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may result in irreparable eye damage.

Special Refrigerators ... continued

Explosion-proof or spark-proof units have no interior or exterior ignition sources.

Label refrigerators used for storage of nonflammable chemicals with a "No Flammable Storage" sticker to avoid confusion.

Caution: Never use environmental rooms, also known as cold / warm rooms, for storage of flammable or other hazardous materials of any volume. Environmental rooms have many ignition sources and little or no air circulation from outside. Small quantities of flammable or hazardous materials (500 ml or less) may be used in these spaces, but do not store them there.

Questions? Contact the EH&S Research Safety Program specialist for your building: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/rap>.

Go to Enrollment Central for Safety Training

Register for safety training on Enrollment Central at <http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>. Browse "EH&S-Safety" under Course Topics for schedules.

Find required and recommended research safety training at:

- **General Lab Safety & Chemical Safety Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/labchemtrain>
- **Radiation Safety Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/radtrain>
- **Biosafety Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/biotrain>
- **Hazardous Waste Training**
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/hazwastrain>



Bloodborne Pathogens Training Requirement

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/biotrain>

UCSD's Institutional Biosafety Committee has revised the Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) training requirement, exempting some researchers from annual BBP refresher training.

BBP training is required for lab workers prior to beginning work with all clinical specimens such as blood, human body fluids, tissue, and potentially infectious human cell lines. Potentially infectious human cell lines include primary cell culture and cell lines known or likely to be infected with HIV, Hepatitis B, or Hepatitis C. **Annual BBP refresher training is required thereafter.**

Annual BBP refresher training exemption: Researchers working exclusively with immortalized human cell lines that are not defined above are required to attend initial BBP training, but are exempt from the requirement for annual refresher training.

Questions about biosafety training? Contact EH&S Biosafety: ehsbio@ucsd.edu, (858) 534-5366.



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