

LAB

NOTES

Safety Newsletter for Lab Workers

UCSD Environment, Health & Safety Office

Safety Award For Excellence

Goes to

Anatomical Preparation & Medical Teaching Laboratories Outstanding Work Group!

Chris Hopkins, Lisa Krenzer, Shannon Davenport, Eric Wood, Richard Wilson, Lola Hernandez, and Mark Gary



Team members Lisa Krenzer, Chris Hopkins, and Shannon Davenport are shown with EH&S Director Steve Benedict

School of Medicine's Anatomical Prep group has developed and refined an admirable safety program. In-house processes are continuously assessed and adjusted to achieve teaching and regulatory compliance goals. This creative team continues to find innovative solutions for integrating environment, health, and safety principles into a sensitive and essential medical teaching facility.

Compressed Gas Cylinders

UCSD's standard operating procedures (SOPs) for work involving compressed gases are on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/cg>.

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**New Radiation Safety Officer, Corey Singleton**

Corey Singleton has accepted the position of Radiation Safety Officer for UCSD. Corey has been a highly-regarded Health Physicist within EH&S for five years. As such, he is well versed in our Radiation Safety Program. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Weber State University in Utah, and is a Certified Health Physicist and Certified Hazardous Materials Manager. Congratulations, Corey!

**How to Properly Thaw Your Research Freezer**

Planning is key to properly thawing a research freezer. Expect two days of freezer downtime during the process. Follow these guidelines for a safe meltdown:

- 1. Never move a freezer to a non-research space** during this process (e.g., the balcony, corridor, office, etc.).
 - 2. Treat all containers as though they are potentially contaminated**, unless you're certain they are not – wear gloves.
 - 3. Unplug the freezer in the morning** so you can monitor runoff throughout the day. Never allow liquid to run directly onto floors (slip hazard) or down any outside drain (potential regulatory violation).
 - 4. Identify hazardous materials** that are or were stored in the freezer prior to thawing:
 - **Radioactive material** – If radioactive material was in the freezer, prior to relocating any of its contents, collect and test an ice sample with a liquid scintillation counter. If you find greater than three times background (using tap water as your control), collect
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Thawing Your Research Freezer

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the ice as radioactive waste and label it for pickup by EH&S.

If the unit is contaminated, follow decontamination protocol for your lab. For assistance, contact the EH&S Health Physicist assigned to your building: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/healthphysicists>.

- **Biohazardous material** – If biohazardous material was in the freezer, collect the ice and add 1 part bleach to 9 parts melted ice. Allow 20 minutes of contact time before pouring down the drain (preferably in a fume hood).
 - **Hazardous chemicals** – Wipe down the unit if contamination is suspected or visible contamination is present.
5. **Remove the contents of the freezer.** It's a good time to clean out unwanted contents.
 6. **Establish a wick and reservoir system to manage the melting ice.** Place a bench pad (paper side down, plastic side up) on the freezer compartment bottom and lead it into a large autoclave pan. Surround the freezer and autoclave pan with absorbent paper towels or bench paper.
 7. **Never chip away at the ice with sharp objects.** The unit's refrigeration coil can easily be damaged by sharp objects, allowing coolant to escape and resulting in expensive repairs or replacement costs.
 8. **If used for biohazard storage,** clean the unit inside and out with a 10% bleach solution.
 9. **Clean the dirt and dust off the exterior coils,** if you can access them, to extend the life of the unit and save energy – think green!
 10. **Plug in the freezer** and wait for it to return to desired temperature.

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

Ergonomics Resource Fund

EH&S has funding assistance available to help purchase ergonomic products from Marketplace for employees who have completed ergonomic training. This includes ergonomically-designed lab products. Learn how to take advantage of the EH&S Ergonomics Resource Fund on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergofund>.



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 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>

Compressed Gas Cylinders

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How to use the compressed gas information on Blink:

- **Review "Compressed Gas Overview"** before beginning work with compressed gas or to determine the hazard classification of a gas.
- **Consult "Requirements for Compressed Gas Use"** to learn UCSD requirements for each gas classification.
- **Read "Compressed Gas Guidelines,"** in combination with general **"Chemical Storage Guidelines,"** for procedures on compressed gas safety.



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