

East Tennessee State University is committed to providing a safe laboratory environment for its faculty, staff, students and visitors. The goal of the Environmental, Health and Safety program is to minimize the risk of injury or illness to laboratory workers by ensuring that they have the training, information, support and equipment needed to work safely in the laboratory setting.

Mandatory Safety Rules

- **Eye protection is required for all personnel and visitors in all locations where there is a possibility of a chemical splash/reaction or an operation that may potentially cause injury to eye(s).**
- **Eating, drinking, smoking, gum chewing, applying cosmetics, and taking medicine in laboratories where hazardous chemicals or radioactive isotopes are used is strictly prohibited.**
- **Wear gloves whenever handling hazardous chemicals, sharp-edged objects, very hot or very cold materials, toxic chemicals, and substances of unknown toxicity.**
- **Secure all compressed gas cylinders to walls or benches.**
- **Do not store chemical containers on the floor.**
- **All containers of chemicals should be labeled properly. Any special hazards should be indicated on the label. For certain classes of compounds (e.g., ethers as peroxide formers), the date the container was opened should be written on the label.**
- **Lab users must wear closed toed shoes made of a non-woven material with non-slip soles.**
- **Lab users must wear a closed lab coat in the lab at all times. Lab coats must be removed before leaving the lab.**
- **Store corrosives and liquid chemicals below eye level (4 to 4.5 feet).**
- **No children under 12 years of age may be present in any lab where hazardous chemicals are stored or used.**
- **Used or contaminated needles, syringes, small bore pipettes, slides, lancets, scalpels and razor blades are to be placed in a red sharps container.**
- **If the lab has a sprinkler system, no more than 5 gallons of flammable and combustible liquids, combined, should be stored outside of a flammable storage cabinet. If the lab does not have a sprinkler system, no more than 2 gallons should be stored outside of a flammable storage cabinet.**