

Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) - Fact Sheet

Chemical Safety/Hazard Communication (Right-to-Know)

- State employees are governed by the Public Employees Safety and Health Bureau (PESH).
 - Private employees are overseen by OSHA.
- You have the Right-To-Know about the hazards of chemicals you work with.
- Chemical hazard information is provided on **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** and **labels**.
 - SDS has exposure control, storage, first aid, and spill response information.
- Dept. chemical inventories and SDS are accessed on Hospital Intranet under Resources A-Z or Manuals.
- Globally Harmonized System (GHS) labeling system requires labels and SDS include product identifiers, signal word (Danger or Warning), pictograms, hazard statements, and precautionary statements.

Chemical Spills / Spill Kits / Eyewashes

- *Minor Spill* (≤ 1 gallon or ≤ 50 ml hazardous drug): Only trained staff can clean up using a spill kit. Kits are available for Glutaraldehyde/OPA, Formaldehyde, Hazardous Drugs, Acid, Oil and Lab chemical spills.
- *Major Spill* (> 1 gallon or >50 ml hazardous drug): Call University Police at 911 (631-632-3333 from cell phone) and provide details of spill. *Off sites: Call local police at 911.*
- Eyewash required for areas using corrosives, glutaraldehyde/OPA, formaldehyde, hazardous drugs, or battery acid. Users must test weekly by running water for one minute and recording test on log.

Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)

- Staff must only wear hospital approved N95 respirators (i.e., 3M 1860 or Moldex 1500) where appropriate (i.e., Covid-19 or TB). Annual training and fit testing is normally required for staff in RPP; fit testing not required for hooded powered air purifying respirators (PAPR).
- Keep fit test card in your ID badge; write your respirator make/model/size on card.
- Replacement N95s can be ordered through Lawson.
- Approved staff (wear beard for religious or medical reasons, unable to wear a N95, or perform aerosol-generating procedures) can use PAPRs available from EH&S.

Preventing Employee Injuries and Illnesses

- Report any safety concerns to your supervisor, EH&S or University Police.
- Report injuries/illnesses to your supervisor, complete Employee Injury/Illness Report and fax report to number on form (Forms are on hospital intranet under "Forms"). Call Accident Reporting System (ARS) at 888-800-0029.
- Contaminated sharp injury: Go to Employee Health & Wellness or ED (off-hours) for follow up and fax completed Employee Injury/Illness Report and a Sharps Injury Log) to fax number on forms.
- Latex Allergy: Notify supervisor and go to Employee Health & Wellness for an evaluation.
- EH&S and Employee Health & Wellness manage the ergonomics program. To request an ergonomic evaluation, contact EH&S.

Environment of Care (EOC)

- Supervisors must review EOC Checklist with new or transferred employees (checklist on HR's website).
- Review EOC Reference Cards located on hospital intranet under "Manuals."
- Know location of your unit's Emergency Power Outage box (tool boxes containing flashlights, batteries, extension cords, duct tape and glow sticks).

Hazardous Waste Management

- Prior to ordering products, refer to Hazardous Chemical Waste Management (Admin EC:0045). Consider less hazardous or "green" products.
- Understand the waste determinations for your waste products; review them in SDSPro or contact EH&S.
- Partially used pharmaceutical hazardous waste is collected in the black containers located in med rooms.
- Unused or expired medications are placed in Return bin in med rooms and returned to Pharmacy (Refer to Pharmaceutical Waste Management, Admin MM:0084).
- Used fluorescent lamps (bulbs) and used batteries are Universal Wastes and cannot be discarded in regular trash. For disposal, contact Recycling (4-1462) for batteries and Plant Operations (4-2400) for lamps.

Fire Safety

- Understand Hospital's Fire Protection Systems:
 - Prerecorded evacuation message announces fire alarm zone location.
 - Chimes followed by voice message indicates alarm is in another fire alarm zone.
 - Alert tone and strobes followed by voice message indicates fire alarm is in your fire alarm zone.
 - If there is visible smoke/fire, follow RACE procedures:
 - **Remove** – remove patients from danger
 - **Alarm** – activate fire alarm pull station and **call 911** (provide your location)
 - **Confine** – shut all doors
 - **Extinguish or Evacuate**
- Know your department's Fire Evacuation Procedures:
 - Locate your unit's Fire Evacuation map and be familiar with plan prior to any incident.
 - If fire on Network floors (L1-L3) – evacuate to the HSC or outside, depending on your location.
 - Patient care areas generally evacuate horizontally past smoke doors, waiting for further instructions.
 - If fire at off site – evacuate to outside.
- **Code Red = Fire** **All Clear = Emergency Over**
- Know about Fire Warden program:
 - Each unit must have a Warden and alternate for each shift.
 - Wardens coordinate fire alarm response and evacuations if necessary.
- Know the locations of fire emergency equipment:
 - Fire Extinguishers
 - Know how to use Extinguisher - Think PASS: **P**ull pin, **A**im at base of fire (stand back 6-10 feet), **S**queeze nozzle, and **S**weep side to side.
 - Fire alarm pull stations – nursing core, by elevators and stairwells (off sites – by exits)
- Don't prop or chock open any doors.
- Don't block any fire exits (corridors), fire doors or fire emergency equipment.
- Shut off Oxygen Isolation Valves, if oxygen is fueling fire in patient room. Know valve locations.
- Maintain Proper Oxygen Cylinder Storage
 - Cylinders must be secured, labeled and segregated "full/partially full" and "empty".
 - No more than 12 total full/partially full or empty cylinders can be stored.

Radiation Safety

Hospital Radiation Safety Officer – Michelle Kehoe, 8-2356

Medical Laser Safety Officer – Samantha Claros, 4-3459

- Be aware of radiation and laser safety signage. Do not enter posted areas without authorization from the area manager/supervisor or Radiation Safety.
- Working in a radiological controlled area requires radiation safety training before your work commences.
- Know how to keep your radiation exposure **As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA)** using:
 - Time, Distance and Shielding
- Maintain security and control of all radioactive substances and sources in your work area.
- If issued dosimetry for assessing occupational radiation dose, always wear properly on the body as designated while working with radiation. Return dosimeters to your departmental coordinator promptly at the end of the wear cycle (1st of the month or the beginning of each calendar quarter).
- If wearing lead aprons as personal protective equipment, always inspect before use.
 - Check for damage and for indication of annual inspection by radiation safety.
- If a radioactive spill occurs follow emergency procedures posted in your area. If you are unsure, call radiation safety.

Any Questions? = Contact EH&S Healthcare Safety at 631-444-6783, email: ehsafety@stonybrook.edu or <https://ehs.stonybrook.edu/programs/healthcare-safety/>