

University of Illinois Materials Research Lab (MRL)

April 2019



Important Dates and Reminders

IMPORTANT DATES:

AMC Workshop

- Tuesday & Wednesday, June 4 & 5, 2019
- MUST register
- <https://amc.mrl.illinois.edu>

DAILY REMINDERS

- Use buddy system when working in labs
- Do not leave labs unlocked
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Remove lab PPE before leaving lab spaces. PPE is not allowed in public areas

Safety Newsletter

This month's topics are emergency response and incident reporting.

Emergency Response

Life- Threatening Injury or Situation

- Call 911 for immediate response.
- DRS personnel are available during business hours and after-hours to consult with emergency responders as needed. They will be notified by the University Police Department if their assistance is requested after 911 is called.
- The department will be contacted by DRS

Report All Incidents to DRS

- Contact DRS immediately to report an injury, exposure, spill, fire, near miss, or any other incident at 217-333-2755 or drs@illinois.edu.
- DRS investigates incidents and near misses to help determine root causes and offers suggestions to prevent them from reoccurring in the future.

Non-Life Threatening Injury or Exposure

- If you are exposed to a hazardous material through an incident in the laboratory, inform your Principal Investigator (PI) or Laboratory Manager and seek medical attention immediately. Early medical intervention can be critical, depending on the agent or hazard involved. **Emergency eyewashes and showers should absolutely be utilized in the base of an eye or skin exposure.**
- If there has been an occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens, complete the [Exposure Report Form](#), and bring this with you when receiving medical treatment. This should be completed regardless of where the injury occurred or whether you receive medical treatment.
- If exposed to **potentially infectious or recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid molecules** through contact with skin, mucous membranes, or clothing, the exposed area should immediately be washed thoroughly, and any contaminated clothing should be removed. The exposure should be reported to your supervisor. Medical follow-up is recommended if: (1) the exposure involves eyes, nose, or mouth, (2) skin is damaged at or near the exposure area, or (3) the exposure is through parenteral contact (e.g., needle stick or cut by sharp object). In such cases, a qualified healthcare professional should perform treatment and provide information regarding risks of infection.
- In the event of a **laser accident**, immediately ensure that the laser shutter is closed or de-energized completely. Provide for the safety of personnel as needed. If a laser eye injury is suspected, have the injured person keep their head upright and still to restrict bleeding in the eye and contact a physician for evaluation as soon as possible.

Useful Contacts

MRL Safety Committee
safety@mrl.illinois.edu

MRL Safety Engineer
 Maisie Kingren
mlswans2@illinois.edu
 217-244-8637

Division of Research Safety
drs@illinois.edu
 217-333-2755
www.drs.illinois.edu

Safety and Compliance
fsserviceoffice@illinois.edu
 217-333-0340
www.fs.illinois.edu/services/safety-and-compliance

- When you seek treatment, bring contact information for your PI so he or she can be consulted for additional technical information regarding the agent or hazard. If your exposure involves a **chemical**, bring along the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) if one is available. **DO NOT** delay seeking medical attention if a SDS cannot be located immediately.

Fires and Spills

- Call 911 in the case of a fire, even if it is extinguished, and contact DRS as soon as it is safe to do so. Fires need to be investigated and the situation cleared by the fire department. Evacuate the area by utilizing a fire alarm pull station. Only attempt to fight a fire if the appropriate extinguishing materials are available and you are trained to do so.
- Call 911 in the case of a complicated spill. Complicated spills require assistance from outside specialists from one of the local fire departments. Simple spills can be handled by personnel if appropriate clean up materials are available, procedures are in place, and it is safe to do so.

Incidents and Near Misses:

Contact DRS immediately to report any incident or near miss (e.g. “close call”) at 217-333-2755 or drs@illinois.edu. DRS will complete a follow-up report detailing the events that led to the incident or near miss. This allows DRS and researchers to identify hazards in operations, correct shortcomings in procedures, and to detail the lessons learned from the incident. The report provides corrective actions that should be implemented to help prevent future incidents.

The follow-up report seeks to identify and correct root causes of incidents, not find blame. This is a collaborative effort between researchers and DRS. A meaningful investigation requires all members involved in the incident, including Principal Investigators and supervisors, to participate in order to successfully determine the root cause and implement corrective actions.

DRS prepares the report based on information provided by the researchers and Principal Investigator, and if necessary, emergency responders. Additional sources of information can be provided by facility managers and unit safety personnel. DRS provides the researchers with an Incident Questionnaire and may perform an in-person follow-up interview if necessary. The final report is provided to anyone involved in the incident, and is for internal use only.

Incidents

Incidents are unplanned events that have led to injuries, illness, equipment damage, environmental damage, or any interruption to normal operations. Examples include chemical exposures, cuts due to broken glassware, fires, spills resulting in exposures, and explosions.

You must contact DRS **and** MRL Safety to report an incident.

Near Miss

A near miss is an unplanned event in which a worker might have been injured if the circumstances had been slightly different. These events have the potential to cause injury, illness, equipment damage, environmental damage, or an interruption to normal operation. Near misses need to be investigated just like incidents to prevent any future situation that could lead to an injury. Examples of near misses include spills without an exposure, loss of containment, and any time emergency equipment (e.g. fire extinguisher) is used to prevent damage or injury.

You must contact DRS **and** MRL Safety to report a near miss.