University of Illinois
F. Seitz Materials Research Lab (MRL)

January 2018

Important Dates and Reminders

January:

VWR Labconco Seminar on Nanotechnology

- January 31, 2018 at 2pm in 190ESB

February:

AED Training Sessions

- This training is for staff and safety contacts ONLY – Must sign up after email has been sent out. Choose one session:
- Session One: February 28, 2018 11am-12pm in 190ESB
- Session Two: February 28, 2018 1pm-2pm in 190ESB

March:

MRL safety contacts pre - DRS audit meeting

- March 7, 2018 at 2pm in 190ESB

April:

DRS lab safety audits will begin the first week of April

Safety Newsletter

What you will find here

Monthly, safety newsletters will be posted on our MRL website and sent to MRL users. This MRL newsletter will help keep you informed on basic safety topics, provide important dates, and safety reminders.

Slips, Trips, and Falls

With the winter months upon us, it is important that we take extra precautions. At times we will experience snow and ice in our parking lot and on the sidewalks, please allow enough time to walk carefully to your destination to ensure that you get there safely. When walking inside of buildings, there may be some wet areas, especially by entrance and exit doors, please use caution.

Here are some tips to prevent slips, trips, and falls:

Wear proper footwear that have good traction	Take short steps, walk slowly, and allow plenty of time
Keep hands free for balance, instead of in your pockets	Use handrails from start to finish
Avoid carrying heavy loads	Test areas for ice by tapping your foot on them
Keep eyes on the walkway	Walk in designated walkways
Walk on grassy edge for traction if sidewalk is covered with ice	If you fall, roll with it. Try to twist and roll backwards instead of fall forward – avoid using your arms

Working Alone in your Laboratory

We highly recommend that you do NOT work alone in any laboratory. It is important to understand that accidents and injuries can occur at any time while working in a lab. Please do not work alone when performing a new experiment, working with hazardous or highly toxic materials, high pressures, high energy materials, or while transferring hazardous or flammable materials.

A lab partner or coworker should be present in case of an emergency or if an accident happens to occurs. If there isn't anyone else from your lab in the building and you must work in a lab, here is what you can do to ensure your safety: contact a lab partner, or a friend, and tell them to reach out to you via phone call, text, or email every 20-30 minutes. Also, give them a time that you plan to finish so they can contact you a final time so they know you are done with your work and out of the lab. If you finish early, it is important that you still contact that person to let them know you are done.

Even if you are working with non-hazardous materials, it is still vital that someone knows you are working in the lab, or have someone present, who is available to call emergency response personnel.

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

Fire Extinguisher Use and Training

If you discover a fire on campus, the most import things you can do are to activate the fire alarm in the building and call 9-1-1 to report the fire. Do not attempt to put out the fire until you have completed those tasks. F&S provides an online Fire Extinguisher Training for all students, faculty, and staff who are interested.

Fire extinguishers must be available, charged, and hung in a location that is immediately accessible. If a fire extinguisher is used, contact MRL Safety Personnel to have the extinguisher replaced. Choosing the correct type of extinguisher is important to effectively put out a fire. Please review the following classes to determine which type of fire extinguisher is appropriate and to ensure you have the right one in your current lab space.

Class A Fires
Class A fires include common combustibles like paper, wood, cloth, rubber, trash, and plastic items. Extinguishers that are used for Class A fires are multipurpose dry chemical, water, and halons.

Class B Fires
Class B fires involve flammable liquids, flammable gasses, solvents, oil, gasoline, paint, lacquers, tar and other synthetic/oil based products. It is important to note that these fires spread rapidly and can rekindle after the fire has been extinguished. Extinguishers that are used for Class B fires are multipurpose dry chemical, carbon dioxide, and halons.

Class C Fires
Class C fires include energized electrical equipment, controls, motors, wiring, data processing panels, and appliances. Before fighting the fire, de-energize the circuit to prevent possible electrical shock. Extinguishers that are used for Class C fires are multipurpose dry chemical (possibility of causing equipment damage), carbon dioxide, and halons.

Class D Fires
Class D fires are those involving combustible/reactive metals such as magnesium, titanium, zirconium, sodium, lithium, and potassium. A typical extinguisher for class D is a dry/inert powder extinguisher. Or use a metal-X Dry chemical cartridge fire extinguisher.

Class K Fires
Class K fires involve cooking oils and fats. Dry or wet chemical extinguishers should be used in kitchen fires. A dry chemical extinguisher that contains potassium bicarbonate can be used for a class K.