Safety Tips for Working in Labs Over Recess

With the University’s recess period quickly approaching, many departments will soon be closed or have significantly reduced staff. While you may continue to work in your labs throughout the recess, you also may find yourself surrounded by fewer colleagues during this time.

Here are some tips to help you stay safe in your labs during the recess:

- Do not work alone in the laboratory with highly hazardous materials or operations at any time. If you are working alone, make sure others know where you are, what you are doing and periodically check in with you.

- Always wear the required attire and personal protective equipment in the laboratory. This includes long pants, closed toe, solid top shoes, safety glasses, lab coat and gloves. Never be in the laboratory with your eyes, legs and feet exposed.

- Review your emergency response procedures for your laboratory and your research protocols, including procedures for exposures, spills, fire and medical emergencies.

- Know the location and how to activate the nearest emergency eyewash, shower and fire extinguisher. Ensure access to emergency equipment is clear and unobstructed.

- If you will be leaving any laboratory operation unattended for a period of time, including overnight, you should complete the Emergency Operations-Unattended Operations Form and attach it at the fume hood, entry door to the lab or other appropriate location. This will help provide needed information in the event of an emergency.

- Know your emergency contact information numbers.

- Use a campus safety escort 203-432-6330 to bring you to and from your vehicle or location after dark.

EHS Closed During Recess

EHS will be closed for the holiday recess from the end of the business day on Thursday, December 21st until 8:30 am on Tuesday, January 2nd. EHS staff are on call during the recess for emergencies. In case of an emergency at any time during the recess period, please call Campus Police at 911. Those working on West Campus should call West Campus Security (24 hours a day) at 203-479-1414.

Click here for information regarding radioactive material orders for the recess.