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## Laboratory Security

University laboratories use a wide assortment of hazardous materials which are potential sources to extremist individuals and terrorist groups for the use of chemical and/or biological weapons and improvised explosives. Faculty, students, researchers and laboratory personnel need to be aware of these threats and understand the warning signs so they do not become targets of the acquisition of these materials.

Whether you work with these materials every day or infrequently, steps should be taken to safeguard hazardous materials from unauthorized access, misuse or removal.

1. Control access to areas where hazardous materials are used and stored;
2. Know who is in your laboratory area;
3. Know what materials are being brought into your lab. Maintain an inventory;
4. Know what materials are being removed from your lab by tracking disposal;
5. Report incidents or possible incidents such as missing hazardous materials, or unusual or threatening phone calls or unsolicited emails;
6. Train all lab staff so they know and understand security procedures and why they are important.

Individuals may contact you to obtain technical chemical information through e-mail and online chat rooms, or they may approach you at conferences to ask seemingly innocent questions about your research. While most of these questions will be legitimate or innocent, there is a risk some are not and may indicate a potential threat. Other indicators of potential threats include suspicious behavior in the laboratory or missing supplies and chemicals.

What should you be aware of??

1. Individuals attempting to access the laboratory who generally have no reason to be there;
2. Missing supplies, chemicals or lost or moved laboratory equipment;
3. Requests to borrow chemicals or equipment from unidentified individuals;
4. Unsolicited requests for technical information in person or over the Internet;
5. Unusual employment or collaboration requests;
6. Purchases charged to a lab purchase card or grant but are never delivered;
7. Unsolicited delivery of chemicals to the lab without a corresponding chemical purchase.

## Is the Room Spinning?

Do you feel weak in the knees at the site of blood? Does the room begin to spin, you break out in a cold sweat and feel all the color drain from your face? Then, before you know it, you're sliding to the floor?

You've fainted! For many, the site of blood makes us slightly uneasy. For others, it's extremely stressful.

Psychologists aren't sure why up to 15% of us experience the plunge in blood pressure that causes us to faint whenever we see blood. But, one theory is that fainting episodes are an evolutionary mechanism.

"The idea is that back in time, when someone was coming at someone else with a sharp stick or rock, a kind of genetic variation allowed certain people to faint in response," explains Tyler C. Ralston, PsyD, a clinical psychologist in Honolulu, who treats people with *blood-injury phobias*. Warriors who fainted looked dead and were passed over during battle. The blood pressure drop also might have helped those who were wounded avoid bleeding to death. Survivors then passed on the "fainting" gene.

While this might have been helpful to our ancestors, it can be paralyzing for people who can't make it through a simple blood test.



If the sight of blood makes you feel faint, please inform any medical staff who might be doing a procedure that involves blood (such as getting a blood test) so that arrangements can be made to allow you to lie down during the procedure. If you experience significant difficulties as a result of this issue, seek advice from a medical professional for treatment options.

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## Celebrate Safely

Summer means picnics, barbecues, parades and firework displays. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), nearly 60% of all firework injuries occur during the 30 days surrounding the July 4 holiday. More than half of these reported injuries involved burns to the hands, head and face.

In Connecticut, the law on legal fireworks is very specific. Only sparklers and non-explosive, non-aerial "fountains" that don't exceed one hundred grams of pyrotechnic mixture are legal for private use. Sparklers can only be legally used in Connecticut by person age 16 or older. Novelty items such as party poppers, snakes, smoke devices and anything that emits a flame **are not legal** for private use in Connecticut.

**On average, people go the emergency room every day with firework related injuries in the month surrounding the July 4th holiday.**

The best way to safely enjoy fireworks is to watch a public firework display conducted by professionals. If you decide to use legal fireworks at home, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers;
- Make sure the fireworks you want to use are legal in your area before buying or using them;
- Always have an adult closely supervise fireworks activities if older children are allowed to handle devices;
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks;
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly;
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away;
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap;

After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding the device to prevent a trash fire.

## Stay Protected—New PPE Policy

Yale University recently finalized its campus-wide policy on personal protective equipment (PPE) and its procedure on implementing this policy in laboratories. This policy and procedure were developed to ensure that the University community, including faculty, staff and students, understand proper PPE selection, use and maintenance, and meet established safety standards. The Provost office, EHS, and multiple faculty safety committees were involved in the development and review of these documents.

In laboratories, personal protective equipment also includes proper attire. Closed toe, solid top shoes and long pants or other clothing that covers the legs, and safety glasses are required for anyone working in a laboratory where hazardous materials are used. If you are directly handling hazardous materials, in addition to the above PPE, you must also wear gloves and a lab coat.

Each Principal Investigator or their designee must complete the PPE Laboratory Assessment Tool, available on the EHS website (<http://ehs.yale.edu/forms-tools/pppe-assessment-tool-laboratories>), to determine additional PPE requirements for activities in their laboratory.

Most of the required PPE is readily available for purchase in the Medical School, West Campus, KBT and Chemistry stockrooms. PPE is also available in the EHS favorites folder on Sciquest. Your EHS Safety Advisor is always willing to assist in complying with this policy and in selecting the appropriate PPE.

## Rules of the Road



In a joint effort, New Haven PD will be working with West Haven, North Haven, North Branford and Hamden police departments to stop dirt bike riders who disregard public safety by riding through city streets, sidewalks, parks and playgrounds.

A three month operation last year, resulted in 18 arrests and 40 ATVs and dirt bikes being seized. Each year, police say that riders are responsible for "pedestrians being struck, traffic accidents, property damage, noise pollution and instilling outrage and legitimate fear in those who live in those communities."

Police are asking the public to help them gain information through observation. Information from witnesses is used to prepare arrest warrants for the riders and the seizer of the ATV or illegal bike. They warn the public not to pursue the riders.

New Haven PD has an anonymous tip line established. If you have any information that could help police seize the bikes and arrest the riders, call 203-946-6098.

Police say they are not only concerned for the safety of residents but also the safety of the riders.

A photograph of a man and a woman standing in a laboratory hallway. The man is wearing a plaid shirt, khaki pants, and safety glasses. The woman is wearing a white lab coat, safety glasses, and purple gloves. Text boxes provide PPE requirements for different laboratory activities.

**Minimum Laboratory PPE**

When working in a laboratory where hazardous materials are used, wear:

- Safety Glasses
- Long Pants
- Closed Toe Shoes

When directly handling hazardous materials, add:

- Lab Coat
- Gloves

Travel safely on your journey to discovery.

Yale Environmental Health & Safety [ehs.yale.edu](http://ehs.yale.edu) 203 785-3550

