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## PPE Doesn't Change with the Weather

### Be a Safety Icon



Your eyes, arms, hands, legs  
and feet will thank you.

As the weather heats up, it is important to remember that proper attire and personal protective equipment (PPE) still need to be worn whenever entering the laboratory.

While sandals, flip flops, shorts, skirts and tank tops are all staples of summer wardrobes, they are not appropriate for the lab setting. Open shoes do not provide a barrier or protection between your feet and spilled hazardous liquids or broken glass.

Be sure your lab footwear is closed from heel to toe and completely covers your feet. Also be sure to wear pants that completely cover your legs, a lab coat, safety glasses

and the appropriate gloves for your work.

### Principal Investigator (PI), Manager, Supervisor and Instructor Responsibilities

- Perform, document and certify PPE hazard assessments for your staff, students, affiliates and visitors when they first enter a work environment, begin an activity or are potentially exposed to a hazardous material, condition or process.
- Review and update these assessments when a new hazardous material, condition or process is introduced into the work environment.
- Ensure that staff, students, affiliates and visitors are aware of hazardous materials, conditions or processes in their work environment.
- Ensure that staff, students, affiliates and visitors receive applicable PPE information and training prior to exposure to those hazards.
- Provide additional safety training specific to their activities and work environment.
- Supply required PPE at no cost to affected staff and students.
- Communicate, monitor and enforce minimum PPE standards, as well as the use of PPE specified by the PPE hazard assessment, work environment or activity performed.
- Notify EHS of materials, conditions or processes that may require individuals to wear additional or different types of PPE.

For more information on PPE, visit [ehs.yale.edu/ppe](https://ehs.yale.edu/ppe).

### Laboratory Hazard Assessment Tool

PIs are required to perform, document and certify a PPE hazard assessment using the Laboratory Hazard Assessment Tool (LHAT) for all laboratory staff, students, affiliates and visitors when they first enter the laboratory, begin an activity or are potentially exposed to a hazardous material, condition or process.

## Fireworks Safety



Each year, fireworks are used around the country to celebrate our nation's independence. But each year, fireworks also contribute to serious injuries including burns, eye injuries and even fatalities.

In Connecticut, all fireworks are illegal with the exception of sparklers and fountains. Sparklers are defined as non-explosive, non-aerial devices that contain less than 100 grams of pyrotechnic mixture. Fountains are described as non-explosive, non-aerial devices that contain less than 100 grams of pyrotechnic mixture for each individual item. If two or more fountains are affixed to the same base, the total quantity of pyrotechnic mixture cannot exceed 200 grams. Both sparklers and fountains may be legally used in Connecticut by people ages 16 and older. Novelty items such as party poppers, snakes, smoke devices and anything that emits a flame are not legal for private use in Connecticut.

Along with the risk of serious injury, fireworks bring a risk of damage to property, most commonly in the form of house or grass fires. If a fire or explosion caused by a legal or illegal firework causes injury or property damage, or is found to pose the risk of either, the person responsible could be charged with a felony criminal offense.

The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display conducted at a state-approved site by state-licensed pyrotechnicians. Click [here](#) for a schedule of fireworks displays in Connecticut.

If you plan to use legal fireworks at home, please follow the safety tips below provided by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Make sure the fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Only use fireworks outdoors in a clear area and away from buildings and vehicles.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers.
- 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.
- Light them one at a time and move away quickly.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.

## Stay Cool, Stay Safe This Summer

Drink water often

Rest in the shade

Report heat symptoms early

Know what to do in an emergency

In 2014, 2,630 workers suffered from heat illness and 18 died from heat stroke and related causes on the job, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Heat illnesses and deaths are preventable.

### Heat-Related Illness

Remember three simple words: water, rest, shade. Drinking water often, taking breaks and limiting time in the heat can help prevent heat-related illness.

Whether working outdoors for your job or at home, competing on the athletic field or simply spending time outside on or off campus, you may be exposed to hot and humid conditions and can be at risk of heat-related illness.

The risk of heat-related illness becomes greater as the weather gets hotter and more humid. This situation is particularly serious when hot weather arrives suddenly, before you've had a chance to adapt. Gradually build up to heavy work or more intense activity in hot conditions. This helps you build tolerance and become acclimated to the heat.

Departments with employees who normally work outdoors or in indoor environments without air conditioning need to address heat stress when planning their work. Supervisors should review safety precautions and warning signs with their employees. For further assistance, please contact Yale Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at 203-785-3550. EHS can also suggest appropriate controls to reduce your risk of heat-related illness.

### Safety Tips

- Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing such as cotton. Avoid non-breathable synthetic clothing.
- Pace yourself during any activity and gradually build up to heavy work or more intense activity.
- Schedule outdoor work or activities carefully. Try limiting it to the coolest parts of day.
- Take more breaks in extreme heat and humidity. Take breaks in the shade or a cool area when possible.
- Drink water frequently. Drink enough water that you never become thirsty, approximately one cup every 15-20 minutes.
- Avoid alcohol and drinks with large amounts of caffeine or sugar.
- Use a buddy system. When in the heat, monitor the condition of your family, friends and co-workers and have someone do the same for you.

### Heat Index App

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and OSHA have developed a tool for your mobile phone. The "Heat Safety Tool" allows you to calculate the heat index in your location and, based on the heat index, displays a heat-related risk level. It is available for iOS and Android. Click [here](#) for more information.

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*"Safety isn't a hobby, it's a living."* - Author Unknown

## Prepare for Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> - November 30<sup>th</sup>, with the principal threat period for Connecticut occurring from mid-August to mid-October.

Yale's Office of Emergency Management has compiled information on how to prepare for a hurricane as well as tips on when evacuation may be necessary, what to do if evacuation is not an option as well as what to do during a hurricane and when the storm is over. Click [here](#) for more information.



### Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days for drinking and sanitation and at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries.
- Flashlight and extra batteries.
- First aid kit.
- A whistle to signal for help.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- A manual can opener for food.
- Local maps.
- Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger.
- Household bleach and medicine dropper— can be used as a disinfectant when diluted nine parts water to one part bleach. In an emergency, you can treat water by using 16 drops of regular household bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleach with added cleaners.
- Make sure to include the needs of your family members, especially if you have kids, are caring for family members who are elderly, frail, or disabled and if you have pets.

## EHS Website Recognized by National Safety Association

Yale Environmental Health and Safety's website, [ehs.yale.edu](http://ehs.yale.edu), has been recognized with the Single Media Award of Merit by the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA). EHS launched its redesigned website in September.

Submissions for this category were described as "single pieces of media created and used by an institution for an intended purpose."

Winners were chosen based on marketing or communication objective clarity, originality, production values, message impact, creativity and appropriateness and understanding of the intended audience.

EHS will receive the award at a ceremony during CSHEMA's 64<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Tucson, Arizona on July 14<sup>th</sup>.