

Winter Term 2023 Safety Memorandum

The Departmental Safety Advisory Group (DSAG) met on January 31, 2023. Important items discussed at that meeting are shown below. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael W. Burand (DSAG chair) or any other member of the Group for assistance.

LPSC Fume Hoods: Please Keep Hood Sashes Lowered When Not In Use!

LPSC has a modern “need driven” fume hood system, such that more energy is consumed when fume hood sashes are open. Fume hoods represent a significant energy drain, so please do your part to conserve resources and keep the fume hood sashes in LPSC completely lowered when hoods are not in use.

Fume hoods in Gilbert Hall do not utilize a need driven system, and in fact they should typically be left open a few inches in order to facilitate adequate air exchange.

All fume hoods should be organized, free of clutter, and have no items on the leading edge which may prevent the sash from being closed.

Please see the document Laboratory Fume Hood Energy Use at OSU Corvallis for details on the campaign to keep the fume hood sashes lowered in LPSC.

Gilbert Hall Hygiene Shower*

Concerns were recently brought to the DSAG that Gilbert Hall does not have a hygiene shower. Discussion are ongoing regarding options to rectify this situation. (Note that LPSC already has a hygiene shower on the first floor.)

**A hygiene shower should not be confused with a safety shower. A safety shower is for emergency use only, whereas a hygiene shower has hot water and is intended to allow researchers the opportunity to shower before leaving the building so they can avoid carrying any potential contamination to their vehicles, homes, etc.*

Electric Vehicle Use in Chemistry Buildings

There have been increasing concerns brought to the DSAG regarding people using electric transporters such as electric scooters, skateboards, Onewheels, etc. inside Department of Chemistry buildings. Use of these vehicles indoors has caused slippery floors from tracking in water, and crowding in elevators. Additionally, there have been reports of near-miss incidents where a collision inside the building was narrowly avoided. These concerns—along with the suggestion to provide more outdoor racks to accommodate these vehicles—will be passed along to the OSU Safety Committee, but in the meantime please note that electronic transporters should not be used indoors in chemistry buildings.

SciShield Training Email Reminders

Unlike the previous system, the new SciShield training program implemented by EH&S provides automated email reminders for overdue safety training requirements. Although some researchers have expressed concerns to EH&S regarding the frequency of the reminders, it is important to note that they will cease to be sent upon completion of the required trainings.

First-Aid Kit Installation

In the coming weeks, first-aid kits will be installed in Department of Chemistry buildings. In most cases they will be installed near building elevators. The kits will be checked periodically and restocked as needed.

Reminder: Laboratory Coat Care (Please Do Not Write on Laboratory Coats!)

The laboratory coat program costs OSU approximately \$100,000 annually. Researchers are reminded that laboratory coats are the property of OSU and may not be kept permanently or altered/defaced. If, for example, a researcher's name is written on the laboratory coat in permanent marker, the coat is deemed non-returnable, and OSU must pay the replacement cost of approximately \$60.