

FIRE CODE COMPLIANCE



This information is critical to life safety in the event of a fire and has broad application to all OHSU buildings.

Periodic inspections of OHSU buildings are not just conducted by internal resources. External agencies such as the Portland Fire Bureau, the State Fire Marshal, The Joint Commission, and others, inspect for compliance with Fire Codes. Inspections often lead to the identification and correction of Fire, Life & Safety violations.

All areas must comply with the following rules:

- ❑ **Exit-ways, stairways, fire escapes should be free of clutter.** You shouldn't be running an obstacle course to leave the building.
- ❑ **Exits must be clearly marked, and EXIT signs must be illuminated.** Report burned out bulbs ASAP to Facilities Triage at 503-494-8054.
- ❑ **Fire doors must be self-closing and must freely latch upon close.** Fire doors help minimize damage in case of fire. Magnetic "hold open" devices are tied to the fire response system so that they release automatically.
- ❑ **Do not use wedges and door stops.** This applies to anything used to keep a door open—we've seen chairs, washcloths, and even a refrigerator!



Special note: Departments may choose, if it is deemed appropriate for the specific area in question, to have "hold-open" devices installed.

- ❑ **Multiple-outlet power strips are acceptable in the following circumstances:** they must be UL-listed, use 15-amp circuit breakers, and have a maximum cord length of 6 feet. They can never be plugged one into another and cannot be used with medical equipment.
- ❑ **Portable heaters are NOT allowed in Healthcare buildings** and are to be used safely in other areas.
- ❑ **Electrical panels must be unobstructed and easily accessible.** Maintain thirty-six inches (36") of clearance in front of electrical panels.
- ❑ **Fire extinguishers must be serviced annually.** OHSU provides this annual service. In addition, The Joint Commission requires all fire extinguishers in healthcare areas to be inspected monthly. This task is performed by designated OHSU staff.
- ❑ **Pull stations and fire extinguishers must be free from obstructions.** Do not block access or store items in these areas.
- ❑ **Items cannot be stored within 18" of fire sprinklers, even in storage areas.**



Problems with any OHSU facility should be promptly reported to Facilities Triage at 503-494-8054 or to the appropriate building contact (for off-campus locations)



Topic of the Month

Chemical Fume Hoods

Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) certifies chemical fume hoods at OHSU. Daily users should make sure that hoods are functioning correctly, used appropriately, and all safety precautions are followed.

Top 10 Chemical Fume Hood Safety Tips:

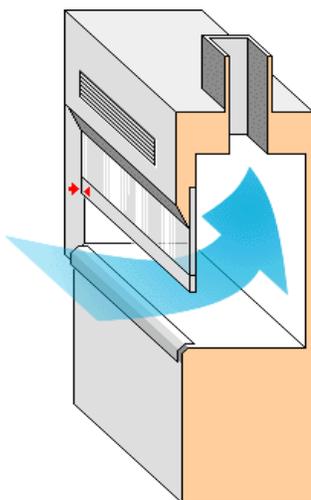
1. Equipment and other materials should be placed, and all work performed, at a minimum of 6 inches behind the sash. This practice will reduce exposure and provide protection to laboratory workers from hazards.

2. The fume hood sash should be pulled down to the optimal working level indicated by the arrow that has been placed on the fume hood by EHRS. Safe air flow was measured at this sash level, and placing the sash higher or lower than this level may affect air flow.

3. Paper and other materials should not be permitted to enter the exhaust duct or baffles of the hood. Foreign objects, like paper, can block the air from flowing freely through the baffles and exhaust duct or get caught in the fan.

4. When handling electrical equipment in a hood, take extra precautions. Protect spark sources from flammable vapors.

5. Hoods are not intended for the long-term storage of chemicals or equipment. All excess chemicals and equipment should be stored appropriately. Most fume hoods are designed with flammable storage cabinets in the base. Minimize items stored in the hood.



6. Equipment and other materials should not be stored against the baffle area (slot at the back of the hood). This baffle provides means for air movement through the fume hood. If blocked, air will not flow properly through the hood.

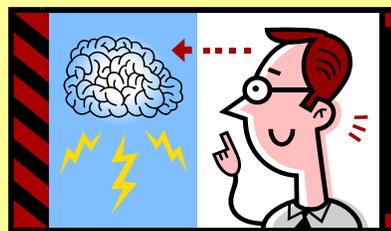
7. Large equipment placed in fume hoods should be elevated a minimum of 1 ½ inches above the work surface to allow unrestricted air movement beneath equipment.

8. Reduce pedestrian traffic in front of hoods to minimize release of contaminants into the work area, particularly when using hazardous materials. Also be aware of—and minimize—nearby disturbances, such as doors opening or closing and quick motions to prevent cross drafts.

9. Do not rely on the fume hood exhaust to protect you from splashes or projectiles. Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves and goggles, as needed.



10. DEQ prohibits evaporation of chemical waste in fume hoods. Please call EHRS at 503-494-0425, or for West Campus call 503-690-5390, to pick up waste as it is accumulated.



Remember:

The General and Laboratory Safety Course is required for anyone who works in or enters a lab at OHSU on a regular basis.

The course is available on Big Brain!

www.ohsu.edu/integrity

CAUTION
FLAMMABLE
VAPORS



Radiation Safety Basics

This information is only applicable to certain OHSU buildings and operations, and each area may be slightly different. There are many types of radiation. Some we can feel — light and heat — while others, such as x-rays, can only be detected using special instruments.

The focus of this article is **ionizing radiation**.

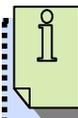
Clinical Application. X-rays and radionuclides are used in medicine and dentistry to detect and treat diseases. Fluoroscopy devices guide physicians during special procedures.

Research Application. Radionuclides are used in research as tracers for certain molecules, chemicals, or cellular activities. It allows us to see the destination or process that is of interest. Examples include studies of metabolism of a drug, activities of enzymes, and concentrations of compounds in body fluids.

Recognition. Areas or laboratories where radiation is used will display the trefoil Radiation symbol (pictured above). Be aware of areas that display this symbol. Employees who work with or around radiation are trained in its use and safety.

Protection. To minimize radiation exposure:

1. Minimize time spent near high energy radiation sources
2. Maximize the distance between sources and you – radiation intensity decreases greatly with distance
3. Shield yourself from sources, using lead, Lucite, or other materials appropriate for the source — wear protective clothing, when appropriate



For a current issue of SafetyNews online, and for archives, visit:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/services/integrity/ehrs/safety/gen/safetynews.cfm>

The SafetyTeam page is available at:

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/services/integrity/ehrs/safety/gen/safetyteam.cfm>

These pages are updated regularly. If there are OHSU resources you'd like to see linked, please send suggestions to the SafetyTeam Coordinator at:

safeteam@ohsu.edu

Pregnant? An embryo/fetus is more sensitive to radiation than an adult, particularly during the first few months. Therefore, special protection guidelines have been developed. Information regarding prenatal radiation exposure is available from Environmental Health and Radiation Safety at 503-494-7795.

Radioactive Material Spill?

- Contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (503-494-7795) if you have questions about how to clean a spill. **In Emergency or after hours situations, report to 503-494-4444.**
- Control access to the area and warn others. Do not leave the area until the spill is cleaned up.
- If the spill has come in contact your skin, immediately wash with soap and water. Remove all soiled clothing.



Hazardous Waste?

For hazardous waste pick-up, call Environmental Health and Radiation Safety at 503-494-7795.

Questions? Ask Environmental Health & Radiation Safety:

503-494-7795

