

## Hazards in the Research Service

Personnel, contractors and visitors may be exposed to biohazards, radioisotopes, physical hazards and hazardous chemicals when entering restricted areas within the Research Service. The research laboratories are safe environments when hazards are recognized and respected. The following is designed to alert non-laboratory personnel to these hazards.

1. When biohazards are present in a laboratory, a biohazard sign is posted near the entrance to the laboratory. Similar labels will be present on containers and freezers/refrigerators that house biohazards.



**Biohazards** are infectious agents or hazardous biological materials that present a health risk or potential health risk to humans. Biohazards include certain types of recombinant DNA; organisms and viruses infectious to humans, animals or plants (e.g. parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi, prions, rickettsia); and biologically active agents (i.e. toxins, allergens, venoms) that may cause disease in living organisms. Biological materials you may not consider to be biohazardous, such as all animal- and human-derived cellular constituents, tissues and body fluids, may be considered biohazardous by regulatory agencies.

Biohazard signs/labels incorporate the universal biohazard symbol, which may be red and white or orange and black (with or without the word “biohazard” or “biohazardous”). The laboratory is considered “clean” when no work is being performed as laboratory personnel are trained to dispose of biohazardous waste, contain biohazardous materials and decontaminate surfaces when their work is complete. If the laboratory is occupied, knock before entering to ensure that the lab is safe for entry. You should always wash your hands prior to exiting the laboratory if any laboratory items were touched. ***For entry into Room 3P-111, you must be accompanied by a technician from that laboratory.***

2. When radioisotopes are present in a laboratory, a radioactive sign will be posted near the entrance to the laboratory and sinks used for disposal of radioactive material. Similar labels will be present on containers and freezers/refrigerators that house radioactive material.

Radioactive signs/labels incorporate the universal radioactive symbol, which may be orange and black or yellow and magenta (with or without the word “radioactive” or “radiation”).



The laboratory is considered “clean” when no work is being performed as laboratory personnel are trained to dispose of radioactive waste, secure radioactive materials and decontaminate

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surfaces when their work is complete. If the laboratory is occupied, knock before entering to ensure the laboratory is safe for entry. Wash your hands prior to exiting the laboratory if any laboratory items were touched.

3. Physical hazards that may be present in research laboratories include gas cylinders, liquid nitrogen, dry ice, ultra-violet lights, lasers, sharps and tripping hazards. Gas cylinders will be anchored to the wall or chained on a cart. Dry ice/liquid nitrogen will be in insulated containers without a tight seal. Syringes or other sharps may be on lab benches. **None of these items are to be disturbed.** Signage is posted in laboratories that are equipped with ultra-violet lights and lasers. Entry into laboratories by non-research personnel is not permitted when ultra-violet lights are on or when laser equipped instrumentation is in use.
4. Hazardous chemicals are present in most laboratories. Do not disturb any chemical containers unless under the direction of laboratory personnel. Obtain help from laboratory personnel if you need to move any chemicals and/or if there is a chemical spill. If there is a small chemical spill, leave the room, close the door behind you, and notify safety at extension 2252 or 2017. If the spill is potentially dangerous to staff, follow emergency procedures (call 1-911).
5. Miscellaneous reminders.
  - a. Absolutely no food or beverage may be consumed or brought into any laboratories.
  - b. Computers are not to be used without the permission of the laboratory resident.
  - c. Permission of the laboratory resident is required before unplugging any laboratory equipment.
  - d. Open-toed shoes are not allowed in research areas.
  - e. Do not allow tail-gating and/or propping doors open into restricted areas.

Perform your duties with minimal handling of laboratory items and get assistance from research or safety personnel whenever you have concerns for your safety.

**I have read the above and understand the types of hazards that I may encounter in the restricted areas of the Research Service. I have had the opportunity to ask questions to clarify any issues regarding my potential exposure to these hazards and I agree to comply with the guidelines set forth.**

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_