

PHYSICS DIVISION
ESH BULLETIN 2006-01
General Safety Expectations for All
Physical Sciences Directorate Laboratories
January 25, 2006

The following general laboratory safety expectations have been developed by the Physical Sciences Directorate Operations Team, which consists of the Division Operations Managers and the Directorate Operations Manager. These standards were compiled in an attempt to provide uniform interpretations for issues that we see across the directorate. In short, we want those of you who work in multiple divisions to have some assurance that expectations will be the same regardless of which laboratory you are working in at the moment. Your Division Operations Manager is your point of contact for these types of issues. When necessary, he or she will consult with other members of the Directorate Operations Team to ensure our interpretations remain consistent.

Because we want all of you to go home safely, we expect you to:

1. **Make it a personal habit to wear eye protection.** The minimum eye protection required to enter PSD laboratories is normally safety glasses with side shields. This is the standard for all areas where chemicals are in use or grinding, soldering, drilling, etc. are taking place. It is not the intention to require safety glasses in hallways, common-corridors, etc, where chemical cabinets are housed or in control rooms that are maintained as chemical-free rooms.
2. **Set a good example by using your personal protective equipment.** Do not establish "Safety glass free zones" within laboratories.
3. **Protect yourself by wearing clothing that will protect you from hazards in the laboratory.** Cover your arms, legs and feet to protect yourself from dermal exposures. Confine long hair and loose clothing.
4. **Protect your self from accidentally ingesting the materials you work with.** Do not eat, drink, chew or store food in laboratories. Do not apply cosmetics while in laboratories.
5. **Minimize unnecessary exposures to hazardous materials.** Do not use desk areas in laboratories as your only office space.
6. **Challenge unsafe behaviors and conditions and communicate issues to the Laboratory Space Manager or Laboratory Space Group Leader.** Laboratory workers are also expected to receive these challenges in the spirit of self-improvement and consideration for our fellow workers.

Because we want all of you to go home safely, we will:

1. **Listen to your concerns.**
2. **Act on them.**
3. **Actively seek continuous improvement in our respective roles.**