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# Safety *first*

BRINGING A SAFETY WORKPLACE TO ALL MEMBERS OF  
THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING

## After Hours Emergencies

Never hesitate to call DPSS (911 or 3-1131) for an emergency after hours or on weekends

For large or dangerous spills there is on-call HAZMAT Team that can be contacted via DPSS

Never attempt to clean up a spill that you are not comfortable with dealing with due to size or hazard

If you have a serious maintenance issue such as a water leak or electrical issue you can call the Facilities Service Center directly at 647-2059

Please notify Chris Peters and Tracy Stevenson of any after hours emergency so we can follow up with them on the issue.



## Prescription Safety Glasses

Just a reminder to everyone that the Chemistry Department and University have a program to give out free prescription safety glasses to those that need them. Please remember that your normal glasses CANNOT be worn in place of safety glasses.

- Undergraduates, Temp Workers and visiting scholars are not eligible for this program



To get a voucher for prescription safety glasses please send an email to Christopher Peters ([chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu)) with the following information:

- Full Name:
- UMID Number:
- Group Name:
- Phone Number:
- Position (Grad Student, Postdoc, Staff):
- Are you on a Fellowship?:

# Lessons Learned

## Waste Bottle Spill

In September a graduate student accidentally dropped a full 4 liter waste bottle onto the floor when putting it in their waste in their waste pickup area.

The graduate student as well as their labmates properly contained and cleaned up the spill. However it should be reiterated that for any large spill like this you can just evacuate the area and call Chris Peters (763-4527) for assistance during work days or DPSS (3-1131) to request the on-call Hazmat team to respond and clean it up for you. If you are unable to get a hold of Chris Peters you can also call EHS-HMM at 763-4568 to have someone assist. No one should ever attempt to clean up a spill if they are not comfortable doing so due to the size or chemical in the spill. As always though, if you have an emergency after hours please contact Chris Peters and Tracy Stevenson about the incident.

We also have a spill about once a year from a waste bottle overpressurizing and breaking while waiting for pickup. Usually this is caused by a small amount of chemical still reacting in the bottle when it gets tightly capped. If you have the possibility of anything reacting in the waste bottle please make sure to allow the chemicals to complete reacting before being put in the waste container and capping it.

This also shows why it is important to always keep your hazardous waste in secondary containment. All of the waste spills we've had from overpressurization luckily have been contained in secondary containment so they were easily cleaned up. If you need additional secondary containments information please contact Chris Peters ([chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu)) for ordering information.



# Lessons

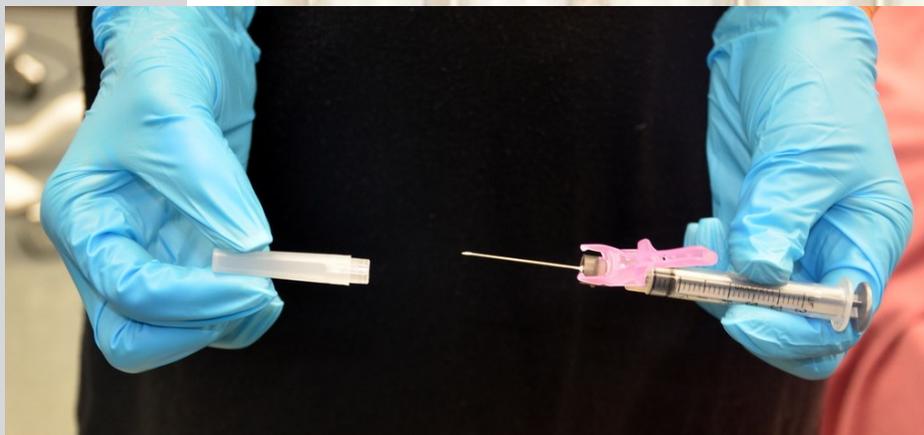
## Needlesticks

In recent months we have had a significant increase in needlestick injuries in our Chemistry labs.

The majority of these needlesticks were caused when opening unused, sterile needles. We need to take extreme care whenever using needles, even when taking them out of the packages and uncapping .

Earlier this year the ACS published recommendations for safe handling of cannulas and needles in chemistry laboratories. This paper can be found at the link below:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.chas.1c00069>



## Items Broken in Packages

Over the last six months we have received at least three packages that contained chemicals that were leaking. One of these three resulted in a chemical exposure when a graduate student opened the box to put it away.

In all three of these incidents the bottles were completely intact and the leaks were caused by the bottle cap not being fully tightened. Packaging for chemical shipping is very extensive so its rare to have a chemical bottle actually break in transport but it has happened in the past.

To ensure there is no possible exposure please make sure proper PPE including gloves are worn when opening and handling all chemicals including brand new ones. If you notice a leak or strong odor coming from a box please place it in the hood and contact our waste coordinator to remove it.

# Fire & Safety Procedures & Reporting

If there is a safety incident (spill, chemical exposure or injury, of any type minor or major) please use the following guidelines. Please note that if during regular hours contact Tracy Stevenson at (x4-7316) or Chris Peters at (x3-4527) and your PI -- **after hours please use the contact information shown below:**

## Minor Safety Incident (no personal injury and little or no property damage)

Immediately contact Tracy Stevenson, Cell 734-358-6902 or [steventi@umich.edu](mailto:steventi@umich.edu) **AND** Christopher Peters, Cell 734-255-6614 or [chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu)

**Write down a brief statement of the incident and what occurred while fresh in your mind to be used when filling out the incident report the next morning or on next business day if incident occurred on a weekend or holiday.**

## Major Safety Incident (personal injury and/or property damage)

Take appropriate medical action based on injury:

**If Minor Injury** - address appropriately (rinse, band-aid, etc..).

Contact Tracy Stevenson, Cell 734-358-6902 or [steventi@umich.edu](mailto:steventi@umich.edu) **AND** Christopher Peters, Cell 734-255-6614 or [chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu)

- Write down a brief statement of the incident and what occurred while fresh in your mind to be used when filling out the incident report the next morning or on next business day if incident occurred on a weekend or holiday.

**If Major Injury** - Call 911 for emergency medical help.

- Immediately contact Public Safety at either 911 or x3-1131 using a campus phone or 911 using personal cell phone and ask for UM Police

**Then contact Tracy Stevenson via Cell 734-358-6902 AND Christopher Peters via Cell 734-255-6614**

## Fire in Lab or Building

**If Minor Fire** (e.g. contained in hood, trash can, waste bucket)

- Put out fire if safe and you are comfortable doing so.
- Immediately contact Public Safety at either 911 or x3-1131 using a campus phone or 911 using personal cell phone and ask for UM Police and inform them of the incident and answer any questions that they have (e.g., detailed location, parties involved, etc...)
- Then contact Tracy Stevenson via Cell 734-358-6902 **AND** Christopher Peters, Cell 734-255-6614 (leave voicemail if not answered directly).
- **If Major Fire** (large, spreading or if uncomfortable or unsafe putting fire out)
- Make sure that all others in room are aware of fire & exit room safely
- Pull fire alarm
- Exit building and call 911 immediately, give location of building and specific area of fire

Then contact Tracy Stevenson via Cell 734-358-6902 **AND** Christopher Peters, Cell 734-255-6614 or [chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu) (leave voicemail if not answered directly).

# Labcoat Laundering Options

For the last few years we have had a company called Sohn Linens as our only option for laundering labcoats. Although Sohn did a great job cleaning our coats, they had the drawback that they were only a monthly pickup/dropoff meaning that it would take over a month between dropping the coats off laundering and getting them back.

We now have a second option to launder our labcoats, Morgan Services, which has a weekly pickup/dropoff and only a one week turnaround.

The cost for this new company is an initial one-time \$3.95/coat for a barcoding fee and \$2.35/coat for laundering with no minimum charge.

For both laundering options the labcoats can be dropped off in the appropriate boxes in the hallway outside of room 1612. For both, you will also need to fill out a form prior to dropping off the labcoats.

If you need a copy or link to the form for either laundering option please contact Chris Peters at [chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu)



## Inventory Barcodes

The Chemistry Building uses a unique inventory system where each chemical is given a unique barcode so we know the locations and quantities of each chemical in the building. This inventory system is only accurate if we all do our part. When created, the barcodes get placed into the mailbox of the person who ordered them. That person then needs to check their mailbox regularly and put the barcodes on the chemical bottles when they are

***“This inventory system is only accurate if we all do our part.”***

received by the lab. When a chemical container is empty, the barcode needs to be removed by the lab prior to the container being put in the hallway for

disposal and the barcode should be placed on a piece of paper. At least once a month this sheet of paper should be placed in the “Used Barcodes” box in the

mailroom so the chemicals can be removed from your inventory.

## UPCOMING INSPECTION

Always Be Ready!



Campus recently had another EGLE (formerly DEQ) Inspection looking at waste. We were not part of the inspection this time but we are due for another one in the near future. We also have many other agencies (DEA, MiOSHA, EPA, etc) that may inspect our labs with little or no notice. Always keep your lab clean and safe.

## Events

- Classes begin ..... Aug 29, Mon
- Labor Day.....Sept 5, Mon
- Thanksgiving Recess.....Nov 23, Tues
- Classes Resume..... Nov 28, Mon
- Classes End..... Dec 9, Fri
- Study Days..... Dec 10-11 Sat-Sun
- Examinations ..... Dec 12-16, Mon-Fri
- Commencement Activities.....Dec 18, Sun

## Dry Ice/LN2

### Dry Ice

Dry ice is available everyday from the cooler outside of room A602 in the basement.

### Liquid Nitrogen

Department dewars are accessible 24 hours a day outside of room A602 for small (under 15L) liquid nitrogen quantities.

Large dewars of liquid nitrogen can be ordered by emailing [chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu) by noon one business day before its needed.



## Contact Information

### Package Shipping

Christopher Bluteau — [chrisblu@umich.edu](mailto:chrisblu@umich.edu)  
Phone—615-5034

### Waste Issues

Kacey Vaughn— [vkacey@umich.edu](mailto:vkacey@umich.edu)  
Phone 764-7325

### Safety Issues/Concerns

Christopher Peters—[chrpeter@umich.edu](mailto:chrpeter@umich.edu)  
Phone—763-4527

Tracy Stevenson—[steventi@umich.edu](mailto:steventi@umich.edu)  
Phone—764-7316

### Chemical Inventory Questions

Anson Pesek—[ahpesek@umich.edu](mailto:ahpesek@umich.edu)  
Phone—647-8932

### Maintenance Requests

Routine Work Request Form on Chemistry Intranet

Baby Henry Wants You  
To Bee Safe

