Chemical Safety Program Overview

The use of chemicals, some of which may be quite hazardous, can make the laboratory a more hazardous environment in which to work then many workplaces outside of a lab.

Trent University is committed to taking all reasonable precautions to ensure the health and safety of all personnel working in a laboratory setting. To that end the Chemical Safety Program is designed to familiarize all Trent staff and students with the basics of Chemical Use Safety.

The Chemical Safety Program consists of an online training course (one for users, and one for supervisors), documentation for the acquisition, use, storage and disposal of chemicals, Standard Operating Procedures for the use of specified Regulated Chemicals and a guide for dealing with chemical spills.

# Online Training

Online training can be found on the Trent E-Learning site Blackboard under the course “Science Safety”. The online course is in the “Chemical Safety” module. Users of chemicals should take the Chemical Safety Course while Supervisors and Principal Investigators should take the Chemical Safety for Supervisors Course.

# Documentation

The following documentation gives the details of the Chemical Safety Program and Procedures and everyone needs to review this material prior to working with or acquiring laboratory chemicals at Trent.

A Glossary of Commonly Used Chemical Terms

Chemical and Lab Safety Training Options

Basic Lab Safety Rules

Specific Chemical Hazards

Acquisition of Chemicals and Hazardous Materials

Regulated Chemicals on Campus

Chemical Storage Program

Chemical Waste Program

Chemical Spills Guide

# Standard Operating Procedures

In addition, a number of Standard Operating Procedures for working with particularly hazardous materials have been developed which will assist lab personnel with determining their work processes. These include the following:

* Hydrofluoric Acid (HF)
* Perchloric Acid
* Pyrophoric / Water Reactive Chemicals,
* Dangerously Reactive Chemicals
* Poisonous / Corrosive Gases

# Designated Substances

To meet the requirements of the Designated Substances Regulations (Ontario) a Designated Substance Standard and the Assessment Form is available and which is to be completed when working with these materials.

# Working Alone Protocol

A “Working alone in a Lab” authorization form has been created which should be used by all personnel expecting to work in labs outside of normal operating hours.

# Supervisors/Principal Investigators Responsibilities

Supervisors/Principal Investigators are reminded of their responsibility to ensure that all of their laboratory personnel are adequately trained and familiar with the safe handling procedures outlined in the documentation listed above. Any deviation from these procedures should only occur if the deviation results in a safer course of action.

Any questions or concerns with the Chemical Safety Program, the training or the documentation should be addressed to the Science Facilities Manager or the Environmental Health and Safety Office.

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