LAB SAFETY INITIATIVE INNOVATION EVENT

PPE & SAFETY EQUIPMENT KIOSKS
HAUNREITER LAB
Environmental and Forest Sciences, College of the Environment

Due to the size of the Paper Science Center’s lab space, mobile safety kiosks/carts were created by Kurt Haunreiter’s group, ensuring that lab members have easy access to important safety equipment at all times. The kiosks/carts contain personal protective equipment (PPE) such as rubber aprons, gloves, first aid kits, and chemical spill kits. Before a student or staff member begins their work at a station, a kiosk/cart must be in place and their PPE must be put on.

DOCUMENTS FOR VISITORS AND NON-STANDARD PROCEDURES
GUNDLACH LAB
Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

Prof. Jens Gundlach’s group often has visiting researchers trying out new lab procedures in their lab space. In order to ensure that everyone has completed the necessary safety trainings and are following the correct safety practices, they created their own safety documents. The Visiting Safety Protocol outlines a safety plan and policies for visiting researchers. The Visiting Researcher Safety Form documents the contact information, experiment plans, chemicals used, and a safety document checklist for visiting researchers. A similar version of this form is used to document any new unique procedures being performed in the lab.

SHARING SAFETY DOCUMENTS IN THE CLOUD
CAO LAB
Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

Prof. Guozhong Cao’s lab group uses Google Drive as a way to store and share their lab documents. Every lab member has a folder with all of their experimental standard operating protocols (SOPs) inside. The SOPs are written by the people using them and reviewed by the lab’s Chemical Hygiene Officer. Using file sharing in this way allows all lab members to have immediate access to the most current SOPs and also makes it easy to see who is working with which chemicals.

DELEGATING CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT TO WORK-STUDY STUDENTS
BAROSS LAB
Oceanography, College of the Environment

Labs that collect large numbers of samples from field work often face issues with how to consolidate and dispose of them later on. Prof. John Baross’ group decided to hire a work-study student to take on this task for their space. This ensures that the samples are being processed in a uniform manner and disposed of correctly, and it prevents the samples from continuing to take up shelf space in the lab.

INCORPORATING VISUALS INTO STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOLS (SOPs)
NELSON LAB
Earth and Space Science, College of the Environment

Standard operating protocols (SOPs) are required for all chemicals in use. These documents can include information on the hazards of a specific chemical or a process involving multiple chemicals, protective equipment required, waste management procedures and emergency procedures. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering this information, the lab of Dr. Bruce Nelson decided to incorporate photographs into their SOPs.
ENGAGING STUDENTS IN SAFETY TRAINING OVERSIGHT

FLINN LAB
Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

The composite materials processing facility in Wilcox Hall is used by many students from the Materials Science and Engineering department, as well as multiple other engineering departments, and is managed by Dr. Brian Flinn's lab. When the question arose of how to ensure that all users of the facility were properly trained, the lab enlisted the help of the Society for the Advancement of Materials and Process Engineering (SAMPE). The Student President and the Safety Officer of SAMPE took the necessary safety trainings at the beginning of each academic year and are then responsible for promoting the trainings to the students and recording the trainings in their SAMPE-specific Lab Manual. This guarantees that all students regardless of department, standing or research group, receive the correct trainings for the facility.

TEACHING INSTRUCTOR ORIENTATION

BEN WIGGINS
Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

A group of teaching lab spaces in the Biology department are used by various instructors. Due to the high turnover rate of the people using these spaces and the variety of lab work being done in them, Ben Wiggins, the supervisor of these labs, helped create a checklist to ensure that every instructor has the necessary safety documents and safety trainings for their work. The checklist also documents that each instructor’s lab staff member has been oriented and trained appropriately and serves as a record of which instructor is using a particular room at any time. The document is signed and dated by the instructor at the bottom.

TRACKING TRAININGS AND SENDING REMINDERS

KOELLE LAB
Medicine - Allergy and Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine

It can be a challenge to track and manage the safety trainings of all lab members if the lab works in several different research fields. The Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) for Prof. David Koelle's lab created an Excel spreadsheet to tackle this issue. Her spreadsheet lists each lab member’s training requirements, the dates of completion and the required renewal dates. The dates are programmed to change color when a training has expired or is soon to expire, so she gets alerted visually when the file is viewed and can send them reminder messages.

ORIENTATION & TRAINING GUIDE

JUUL LAB
Pediatrics, School of Medicine

To streamline the orientation and training process for everyone working in their lab space, the Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) of Dr. Sandra Juul's lab created a Safety Orientation Checklist. Each person must review the list of trainings needed for their work, complete a walk-through of the lab to locate safety resources and equipment using the checklist, and sign and date the checklist to record the orientation and trainings have been completed.

LAB-SPECIFIC CHECKLISTS

SEAN YEUNG
Civil and Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering

The Harris Hydraulic Lab is a fully equipped laboratory for use by both research and teaching groups working on environmental fluid mechanics. The laboratory is used by researchers from departments across campus and is managed by Sean Yeung, the building coordinator. He has created a document outlines lab-specific trainings and policies for the workspace. This document provides users with an orientation guide and also serves as a record of who is using the space and its equipment.
SAFETY DOCUMENTS FOR SHARED EQUIPMENT

HALLSTRAND LAB
Pulmonary and Critical Care, School of Medicine

The Translational Core Lab is a shared space used by researchers and faculty members in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (PCCM) Division. This space is overseen by Dr. Teal Hallstrand, the laboratory director. To ensure that everyone using the space is engaging in best practices and aware of safety requirements, his group created a list of guidelines. These guidelines outline resources and expectations for all users, and a Facility Use Agreement that everyone must read and sign before using the space or any of the equipment in it. These safety documents also act as a record of who has used the space and equipment for their research.

Guidelines List:
• Training requirements
• Rules of engagement
• Available equipment
• Maintenance procedures
• Hazardous chemicals present

User Agreement:
• Laboratory policies
• Limits on use
• Fees
• Signature and date from user
• Signature and date from laboratory director

Dr. Daniel Schwartz's lab uses MyChem to manage their chemical inventories as well as keep track of their risk level in the lab. Their inventory showed that they had one substance from an old grad student that significantly increased the hazard level in their lab. They did not need the chemical for immediate experimental purposes, and got rid of it, immediately lowering their lab's hazard level.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY TEAM

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
College of Arts and Sciences

Biology has formed a new safety team to discuss and oversee safety issues within their department. They have chosen Ron Killman to be the department's designated Safety Officer.

DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS
College of Engineering

Aeronautics and Astronautics has formed their own safety team to discuss and oversee safety issues within their department. Dr. Dana Dabiri is currently leading the meetings for this group.

REVIEWING CHEMICAL HAZARD LEVELS

SCHWARTZ LAB
Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering

MyChem offers a variety of tools for users to manage their chemical inventories, including Chemical Safety Level (CSL) reports, which show the CSL for each room listed under a particular person's name.

MYCHEM