LABORATORY EMERGENCY PROCEDURES DURING POWER OUTAGES

Appendix 8

It is important to remember that some equipment cannot be turned off and certain other pieces of equipment do not shut themselves off when there is a power outage. Pre-plan specific procedures for your laboratory while adhering to the following:

- Close chemical fume hood sashes. No work is allowed in fume hoods during a power outage.
- Ensure that all chemical containers are secured with caps, parafilm, etc.
- All non-essential electrical devices should be turned off. Keep the doors of refrigerators and freezers closed. Check to ensure that lasers, radio frequency generators, etc. have been turned off.
- Turn off all gas cylinders at the tank valves.
- If a low flow of an inert gas is being used to "blanket" a reactive compound or mixture, it may be appropriate to leave the flow of gas on. The decision to do this should be part of the written Standard Operating Procedure specific for each lab in Appendix 1A.
- Check all cryogenic vacuum traps (N_2, CO_2 and solvent). The evaporation of trapped materials may cause dangerous conditions.
- Check all pressure, temperature, air, or moisture sensitive materials and equipment. This includes vacuum work, distillations, glove boxes used for airless or moistureless reactions, etc.