



FIRE PREVENTION

- Be aware of ignition sources.
- Store flammable liquids in appropriate containers and cabinets.
- Do not store incompatible materials together.
- Keep all sprinklers clear
 - 18 inches below must be clear.

"While no human activity is completely risk free, if you use common sense and a bit of chemical sense, you will encounter minimal problems in the lab."

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Call 911 First!
- Be familiar with evacuation plans.
- Clean up all small spills.
- Immediately report all lab accidents.
- In case of chemical spill on your skin and clothing, rinse the area with plenty of water.
- If the eyes become affected by a chemical, immediately use the eye wash station and continue for 10-15 minutes, or until professional assistance is obtained.
- Minor skin burns should be placed under cold water.

SUMMARY

- Know what you are doing at all times.
- IF in doubt about anything, ASK!
- Always use good common sense in the laboratory.

On the cover: University of Alaska-Fairbanks lab tech, Marlys Schneider, mixing nickel sulfate with disodium EDTA.



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UAF LABORATORY SAFETY



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SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Before starting any work in the lab, make it a point to become familiar with the procedures and equipment that are to be used.
- Inspect all equipment before use.
- If you don't understand something, ASK.
- Do not operate equipment unless properly trained.
- Avoid unnecessary movement and talk in the lab.
- No food or drink in the lab,
- Do not do dangerous experiments alone.
- Confine long hair, and be aware of dangling jewelry.
- Wear all personal protective equipment.
- Do not wear contact lenses.
- Check chemical labels twice.
- Be aware of hazard classifications.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Do not smell or taste chemicals.
- Never point the open end of a test tube toward yourself or your neighbor.
- Know the location and use of:
 - safety shower
 - first-aid kit
 - exit doors
 - telephones
 - fire pull station
 - Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

SAFETY GUIDELINES, cont.

- Never look directly down into a test tube; view contents from the side.
- Vent apparatus which may discharge toxic chemicals into local fume hoods.
- Always dispose of chemicals properly.
- Before leaving the lab, ensure gas lines and water faucets are off.
- Do not ever cover the windows to lab doors.
- Maintain a clear pathway to all the safety equipment.



HOUSEKEEPING

- Clear lab counter of all unnecessary materials (books, clothing, etc.) prior to beginning your work.
- Lab tables & counter tops should be kept clean & free of unnecessary materials.
- Fume hoods are not to be used for the storage of chemicals.
- Keep all aisles and walkways in the lab clear to provide a safe walking path and an unobstructed exit.
- Do not exceed allowable quantities of chemicals.
- Do not block access to emergency equipment & utility controls.
- Inspect all equipment before use.
- Do not leave experiments unattended.
- Keep lab floor dry at all times.
- Tag all machinery under repair.
- All compressed gas cylinders must be secured and labeled.
 - secured with chains or straps.
- When discarding used chemicals, carefully follow the instructions provided.
- If necessary, clean equipment after use to avoid the possibility of contaminating the next person who needs to use it.
- Return all equipment, chemicals, and personal protective equipment to their designated locations.