

June 2010 SCS Safety Newsletter

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www.safety-cartoons.com/cartoons.php?id=16

Laboratory Housekeeping Guidelines:

The most common safety violation in SCS labs is poor housekeeping. Not only does poor housekeeping cause labs to be cluttered and messy, it jeopardizes the safety of all employees working in the lab. Adhering to the following guidelines will help to maintain cleanliness, order, and a safe working environment in laboratories:

- Label all containers
- Wipe up all spills
- Maintain bench tops and hoods free of clutter
- Maintain chemical hazards at least 2 inches from the edge of bench tops
- Maintain exits, aisles, and safety equipment free of all obstructions

Work areas and floors are not to be used for excessive storage. Aisles within the laboratory should be 36 inches in clear width. Doors which are not in use but which are accessible from a corridor or adjacent room should be appropriately labeled if they are blocked on the interior of the room. Hallways are not to be used as storage areas. Refer to Campus Administrative Manual (CAM) V/B - 6.2, Departmental Use of Corridors for more information (<http://www.fs.uiuc.edu/CAM/CAM/v/v-b-6.2.html>).

Blood Borne Pathogens:

Care should be taken when dealing with blood and bodily fluids. Blood borne pathogens (e.g., HIV and hepatitis B) can live in a pool of blood for weeks. If someone is injured, the best person to clean up the blood is the person who bled. Otherwise, an individual trained in the handling of blood borne pathogens should be responsible for cleaning up the blood. Training information is available through the Division of Research Safety, Biological Safety Section. Should you decide to perform the cleanup; secure the area, wear gloves and eye protection, contain cleanup materials in plastic bags, disinfect the area with bleach, and dispose of all materials according to proper procedures. For further information regarding blood borne pathogens consult the following fact sheet: <http://www.dr.illinois.edu/bss/factsheets/exposure.aspx?tbID=fs>