Lab Safety Inspection Items of Concern

**HOUSKEEPING**...keep labs free of clutter, keep walkways clear, put up tools and sharps, etc.

**SECURITY**...lab doors should always be closed...lab doors must be locked when unattended

**DAISY-CHAINING POWER CORDS**...the item using power must be plugged into a main power-source or power supply that is plugged into a main power-source

**EXTENSION CORDS**...extension cords are allowed temporarily but cannot be used frequently for the same purpose

**CHEMICALS IN HOOD**...chemicals cannot be stored inside the working area of a hood or left opened while unattended

**CHEMICAL STORAGE**...violations include using wrong cabinetry, storing chemicals in hoods/biosafety cabinets, storing them on the floor and/or improperly storing certain chemicals together – chemicals must be stored in the proper cabinetry and properly handled at all times

**CHEMICAL DATING**...all chemicals should have a received date and an open date

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**...all waste containers must be labeled [and/or tagged]

**LABELING CONTAINERS**...all containers must be labeled, acetone bottles & DI water carboys, etc.

**LABELING CABINET DOORS & DRAWERS**...is strongly suggested and often listed as a deficiency when content labels are not present

**SIGNAGE: LASERS, REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS & MICROWAVES**...should have proper labeling – “Not Safe for Flammable Storage”, “No Food”, “Food Only”...rooms with lasers should have proper entry door warning signs

**PERSONAL ATTIRE SAFETY DEFICIENCIES**...include not using safety glasses, gloves and labcoats along with wearing open-toed shoes and having unrestrained hair...include using gloves on common services like door knobs, elevator buttons, etc.

**TOOLS**...leaving sharp tools like screwdrivers, scissors and boxcutters laying around unsecured (instead of securing in a toolbox, drawer or cabinet)

**SHARPS**...unsheathed razorblades, broken glassware and syringe/needle storage and disposal

**ROOM CEILING CLEARANCE**...nothing can be within 24 inches of the ceiling (normal violations include stacked boxes near or to the ceiling)

**DOORWAY/ENTRANCE EGRESS**...should be clearly unimpeded

**WALKWAYS**...clear walkways must be established and free of obstructions particularly cords on the ground...power panels should be clear of obstruction(s)

**EATING/DRINKING IN LABS**...food should not be consumed in the labs and drinks should only be allowed, if allowed at all, in a designated area only

**PLEASE NOTE** this list of common safety concerns is not a full list of possible safety deficiencies

In the Safety Portal in EPIK you can find the hazard categories used for inspections. At the Safety Home in EPIK click on the Problems tab at the top then [List] at the top and in the Filter By area click on the down arrow in Hazard Category and you will find the following categories:

- Autoclave
- Chemical Storage & Handling
- Electrical Safety
- Fire & Life Safety
- Fume Hood – Biological Safety Cabinet
- Laboratory Security
- Laser Safety
- Other
- Physical Hazards
- Protective Equipment
- Safe Lab Practices
- Warning Signs & Labels
- Waste Disposal

Please see the engineering safety website for more lab safety information [http://engineering.tamu.edu/safety/]

Thank you for taking safety serious.

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