



OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE SERVICES  
UVM.EDU/POLICIES

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## POLICY

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**Title:       Laboratory Health and Safety**

### Policy Statement

The University of Vermont is committed to providing a healthy and safe working and learning environment, and to supporting environmentally sound practices in the conduct of University activities. It is University policy to comply with all applicable regulations and requirements related to research and teaching in laboratories. All University activities are to be conducted in a manner that ensures the protection of others including students, employees, visitors, as well as to the environment.

### Reason for the Policy

It is the intent of this Policy that University personnel plan and carry out their research and teaching activities in a manner that:

1. Protects the health and safety of others including employees, students, and the local community;
2. Protects the environment;
3. Complies with applicable federal, state, and municipal laws and regulations, as well as University Policies and University Operating Procedures.

The goals of this policy are to prevent or minimize injury and illness, environmental incidents, property loss or damage, and business interruption.

### Applicability of the Policy

This Policy applies to all University of Vermont employees and students who conduct activities in or oversee operations of a laboratory as that term is defined in this Policy.

### Definitions

**Laboratory:** Any physical space that is owned or operated by the University of Vermont, for teaching or research purposes, that is equipped to conduct experiments, tests, investigations, or other activities, which may expose humans, animals, or the environment to chemical, radioactive, biological or other physical hazards, such as laser, electrical or mechanical hazards. Physical spaces that may be considered to be laboratories include scientific laboratories, greenhouses, farm buildings, field research stations, fine art studios, and theater stage design workspaces, as well as those areas that support the foregoing through storage, shipping or transportation of these hazards.

Potentially Hazardous Materials or Energy: Any substance or material that could adversely affect the safety of the public, handlers, or carriers during transportation. Examples of potentially hazardous materials or energy include but are not limited to:

- x Biological or infectious materials used at biosafety levels 1, 2 & 3;
- x Bloodborne pathogens;
- x Chemicals that are flammable, corrosive, toxic, pyrophoric, or create inhalation or environmental hazards;
- x Compressed gases;
- x Controlled substances (US DEA);
- x Homeland security chemicals of interest (Select Agents and CFATS);
- x Ionizing radiation or X-ray devices;
- x Nanoparticles;
- x Recombinant DNA

Potentially Hazardous Operations: A function that may present hazards to human life and health.

Examples of potentially hazardous operations include but are not limited to:

- x Electrical, hydraulic, and other high energy systems;
- x Ergonomics, tripping, and general housekeeping;
- x Farm and animal hazards;
- x Field and vehicle hazards;
- x Fire and life safety in laboratories;
- x Lasers (class 1 systems, class 2, 3 & 4 lasers);
- x Noise;
- x Shipping, receiving, and transporting hazardous materials;
- x Water, diving, boat hazards;
- x Power equipment and tools.

Safety Personnel: For purposes of this Policy, those employees of the University who perform risk and safety audits of laboratory facilities, including without limitation, employees of the Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS), and Police Services.

## Procedures

While every research and teaching laboratory may have differing specific requirements for what is needed to ensure a healthy and safe working and learning environment, the University acknowledges that there are some requirements common to all. The health and safety requirements for all laboratories must include these general requirements:

1. Adequate training and supervision of persons working in laboratory spaces;
2. Initial and periodic risk assessments, inspections, and corrective action planning;
3. Provision of personal protective equipment, as applicable, to those conducting activities in laboratories;
4. Established requirements for procuring, using, transporting, and disposing of potentially hazardous materials and energy, as applicable;
5. Established requirements for responding to incidents and emergencies; and
6. Clearly assigned roles and responsibilities.

Specific requirements depend on the materials, equipment, and environmental factors unique to each laboratory.

Generally, all University employees are responsible for adhering to applicable safety policies, procedures, laws, and rules, for promoting the safety of workers, and for protecting the local environment. Employees



- x Ensure that students and employees receive job and hazard specific safety training.

UVM employees, visitors, students, and everyone else authorized to conduct activities in University of Vermont laboratories:

- x Take appropriate and necessary steps to protect themselves and others from obvious hazards
- x Abide by safe work practices;
- x Observe safety related directions;
- x Be familiar with University emergency responses plans;
- x Be proactive in learning about potent (a)-1n7 1 Tf -24.425e0076& (d)3.haonsebonsvrelawndpnd ih ve 5iate a3

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## Contacts

Questions concerning the daily

## Training/Education

Training/education related to this policy is as follows:

Training Topic:	Laboratory Safety
Training Audience:	All personnel working in UVM laboratories <b>D</b> 81 01.48 re f 539.762 71.58 0.481 01.48 re g 71.706 0.48(l)39.52 re f 140.06 0.48(l)39.52 re T