ATSC On-campus Laboratory Safety Plan - Updated 20170921

This document is relevant to on-campus laboratories in the Department of Atmospheric Science (ATSC). For information about the University Flight Center, and its safety plan, please see this LINK or contact the Flight Center Safety Officer (Brett Wadsworth; bwadswol@uwyo.edu; 307 742 4192 or 307 742 2435).

I. Background

As dictated by both the state and federal governments, the ATSC must comply with laboratory safety regulations. The regulations are designed to minimize hazards in our on-campus laboratories. The University-wide program is discussed in the Risk Management and Safety (RMS) document LINK. The document will be referred to as the RMS/CH program and a copy can be found with the Safety Data Sheet (SDS, see below) information in Room 6031. Hard copy and versions of ATSC SDS’s are also available in Room 6031.

Department of Atmospheric Science (ATSC) safety coordinator (Jeff Snider, Room 6019, jsnider@uwyo.edu, home phone: 307 745 7540, cell phone: 307 399 7026)

II. The ATSC Safety Program

A. The ATSC safety coordinator will work with the University Safety Specialist (John Benedik, 307 766 2649) to develop a safety program for ATSC.

B. The ATSC coordinator will inspect laboratories for compliance with the Safety Program. The ATSC laboratories are:

1. Keck - Main - Room 6008 (Jeff Snider; 307 399 7026)
2. Keck - Environmental Chamber - Room 6012 (Jeff Snider; 307 399 7026)
3. Stratospheric Research Labs and Shop – Rooms 6002, 6039 and 6039A (Terry Deshler)
4. Air Quality Lab – Room 6015 (Rob Field; 307 399 3331)
5. Atmospheric Chemistry Lab - Room 6036 (Shane Murphy; 307 766 6408)
7. Microphysics Lab – Room 6080 (Nick Mahon; 307 760 3703)
8. Lidar Lab – Room 6064 (Zhien Wang; 307 760 8008)

Note: there are two basic lab-safety rules: wear safety glasses, and do not eat or drink in the laboratory.

C. The ATSC coordinator will provide a variety of resources, including:

1. Protective gear (i.e., safety glasses, lab coats, ear protection, and respirators) for use when handling toxic chemical compounds or when ATSC people are exposed to other workplace hazards. The protective gear is stored in the closet in Student Research Lab A (Room 6012). A first aid kit and absorbent for chemical spills are stored in this room (above the sink).
2. Equipment for cleaning up chemical spills is stored in the main hallway outside Student Research Lab A (Room 6012) and above the sink in Room 6012. This spill kit is not appropriate for mercury. Also, call RMS/CH if a spill occurs (307 766 3277).

3. Data Safety Sheets (SDS) are kept in three-ring binders in the Atmospheric Science Library (Room 6031 – behind the brown stuffed chairs). If you purchase a chemical, a SDS will be sent to you. A copy of the SDS needs to be put into the ATSC SDS file and the chemical also needs to be entered into the ATSC chemical data base. Please check the data base before you purchase chemicals. Also note that we have four storage areas for chemicals:
   a. Dry chemicals - cabinet against the west wall in Room 6036
   b. Solvents - under the fume hood in Room 6008

4. Storage containers for chemical waste located in the fume hood in room EN 6008.

5. Eye washes and safety showers in the Atmospheric Chemistry Lab (Room 6036), the Keck-Main Lab (Room 6008), and in Air Quality Lab (Room 6015).

6. A container for disposing of damaged glassware (i.e., sharps). The sharps container is located to the left of the sink in the Atmospheric Chemistry Lab (Room 6036).

7. Materials (i.e., tape and marking pen) for labeling chemical storage containers. These are kept in the green cabinet in Room 6035. The container labels should indicate the composition of the stored material, any hazards, and the date of storage.

8. The ATSC coordinator will institute a monitoring program if required to assess exposures to toxic substances. Guidelines for the establishment of chemical monitoring programs are given in the RMS/CH program.

9. The ATSC coordinator will also recommend medical consultation in the event that ATSC personnel are exposed to toxic substances in potentially harmful concentrations.

III. Training -

   All ATSC personnel (faculty, staff and students) who use the on-campus laboratories will attend safety seminars offered by RMS/CH. The seminars, and job-specific trainings, are provided to new ATSC personnel who plan to use the laboratories. Since Graduate Research Assistants who are conducting laboratory-based research are required to attend the RMS/CH seminars and receive job-specific training, and because these students are employees of the University, an ATSC Student Safety Program will not be instituted.