

# Winter/Spring Laboratory Safety Coordinator Meeting

February 2016

General Life Safety

# Agenda

- Welcome and Updates
- General Life Safety
- ROHP
- Table Topics
  - General EHS
  - Shipping/High Hazard Chemicals
  - Eye Washing
  - Bullex: fire extinguisher demonstration

# Welcome and Updates

- Welcome to all new and returning LSC's
- Welcome new Research Safety Specialists
- Thomas Bernatavitz- 36, 44, 48, 110 Cummington St; 8, 15 St. Mary's St; 730, 750 Comm. Ave
- John Gilmartin- New Evans (X) B-3, CABR (W), Dermatology (J), Fuller (M)

# General Life Safety

- Electrical Panel clearance
- Myths about Fume Hoods
- Egress deficiencies
- Combustible load deficiencies
- Flooding
- Suggestions concerning storage

# Electrical Panel Clearance

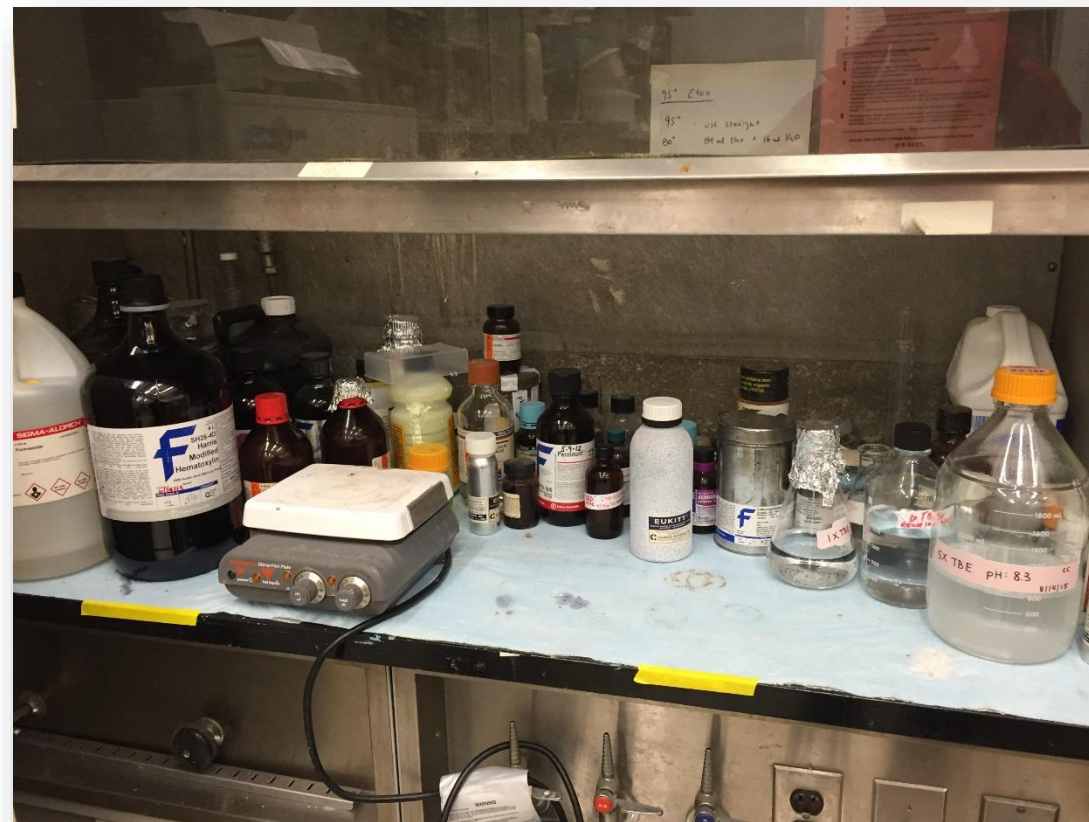
**Yellow Caution OSHA-NEC sticker found on all laboratory electrical panels**

**Common deficiency: placement of items in front of electrical panels**



# Myths About Fume Hoods

- Myth: A fume hood can be used for storage of volatile, flammable, or odiferous materials when an appropriate storage cabinet is not available.
- Fact: It is okay to keep chemicals in a fume hood that are being used during a procedure, but fume hoods are not designed for permanent chemical storage.
- Note:
  - Items placed in the hood can interfere with the air flow, causing turbulence which will allow contaminants to be drawn out of the hood into the room.
  - Fume hoods are not flammables cabinets. They offer no protection from a fire occurring outside the hood in the laboratory.



# Egress

**A common deficiency: All paths of egress are adequate and are free of obstruction**



**A general tidying and discarding yields a safer work space for all occupants**



# Combustible Load

Deficiency: **No excess combustibles** or combustibles or trash cans near a heat source



Deficiency: Flammable chemicals not stored in flammable cabinets when not in use





# Examples of Flooding

Note: The lab had ceiling tile fragments fall over all the lab benches, which resulted in the active research lost. The boxed supplies stored on the floor absorbed a great deal of water and compromised their usefulness.



# Suggestions Concerning Storage

## If your lab has an excess of :

- Paper: consider scanning documents and/or recycling and shredding excess paper
- Supplies: When stored on the floor supplies are at risk from water leaks. When stored too high they can impede sprinkler heads. Sometimes removing from the bulkier boxes will allow supplies to be stored in drawers and cabinets
- Chemicals: remember to update your chemical inventory annually . This will help to prevent re-ordering of chemicals you actually have on hand and to prompt discarding of chemicals deemed unsuitable. Keeping the NFPA fire diamond, (found on the lab door placard) accurate aids first responders.

# Research Occupational Health

- 24-hour medical support for researchers, please call (617)414-7647
- Provides medical surveillance based on work environment
- Provides vaccinations/TB screening
- Educates regarding infectious disease or hazardous agents
- For laboratory related injuries – notifies agencies/key stakeholders
- Coordination of post exposure/injury care
- Provides return to work and fitness for duty evaluations
- Works with Environmental Health and Safety to identify trends – injury prevention

# Medical Surveillance Cards


- A Surveillance Card, similar to the one shown in the graphic, is provided for all BU laboratory workers.
- Card must be presented to a Health Care provider in the event of an unexplained illness.
- Card contains medical contact information including the BU website where the Health Care provider can agent specific information.



**Boston University Office of Research Compliance  
Research Occupational Health Program  
Medical Surveillance Card**

This card must be presented to a Health Care Provider in the event that the card holder has an unexplained illness. The Health Care Provider should consider the agents listed on the back of this card and contact the Boston University, Research Occupational Health Program (ROHP).

BU Medical Campus: Ext. 4-ROHP (7647)  
All Other Areas: 617-414-ROHP (7647)  
<http://www.bu.edu/rohp>

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY** HEALTH CARE PROVIDER 

The person carrying this card is a laboratory worker at Boston University and is involved with research with the biological agents/materials listed below. The possibility of exposure must be considered in the event of an illness.

For more information please contact the Boston University, Research Occupational Health Program (ROHP) 24 hour number 617-414-7647 and/or visit the ROHP web site at: <http://www.bu.edu/rohp>

Agents: Herpes B Virus

# Table Topics

- EHS: General information and lab stickers
- Shipping: Information about shipping biological materials
- HHC: Information on the High Hazard Chemical Program
- Eye Wash: Information and supplies pertaining to the OSHA requirement of weekly eye wash flushing
- Bullex: An interactive exhibit to gain experience in using a fire extinguisher