

## A Laboratory Safety Newsletter

A publication by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety and the Laboratory Safety Committee

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[www.bu.edu/research/compliance](http://www.bu.edu/research/compliance) • (617) 638-8830

Lab Safe is a quarterly newsletter written and distributed by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety and the Laboratory Safety Committee at BUMC. The goal of the newsletter is to share timely, relevant safety information and resources on the Medical Campus.

## Research Information Management System (RIMS)

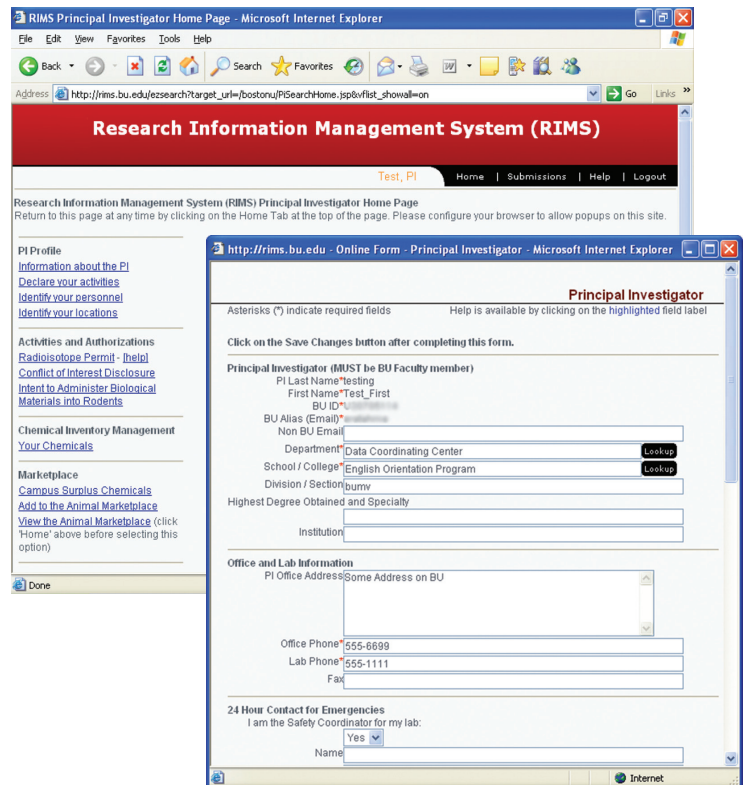
RIMS was designed as a Principal Investigator (PI)-centric system in which various research activities of PI's are tracked. The PI defines the project he/she is working on (e.g. location, category of subject, materials etc.), and this information is used to determine specific needs of the laboratory, such as training, safety equipment, permits, etc. RIMS is designed to consolidate all necessary forms/applications on one system. This will allow researchers to use more time for research and less time filling out paperwork. The Office of the Associate VP for Research Compliance (OAVPRC) is implementing strict security measures to ensure the information remains safe and secure.

PIs should log onto RIMS, by visiting <http://www.bu.edu/rims>.

Check and verify existing information such as:

- Principal Investigator Information
- Laboratory Personnel
- Confirm the chemical inventory and print MSDS's from the Chemical Inventory RIMS database
- Protocols and Inspection Reports

If you have any difficulty accessing RIMS, or have comments contact your Research Safety Specialist. **IS**



## Transporting Chemical and Biological Materials between Labs

Hazardous materials must be transported in such a manner that they will not leak, break, or pose a danger to the transporter, the public, or the environment:

### Chemicals should be:

- In a closed container on a cart with a 2" lip or
- In a secondary leak and shatterproof container

### Biological Materials

- In a sealed, leak and shatterproof transport container identified with the international biohazard sticker.



## Transporting Materials between Campuses or off Campus

Hazardous materials must be transported in such a manner that they will not leak, break, or pose a danger to the transporter, the public, or the environment:

### Transport of Chemicals:

- Special training and DOT compliance are required.

### Transport of Biological Materials:

- Shipping of Biologicals training is required. It is offered by EHS
- Training dates available on the EHS website. Registration is required.

For information contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, 8-8830.

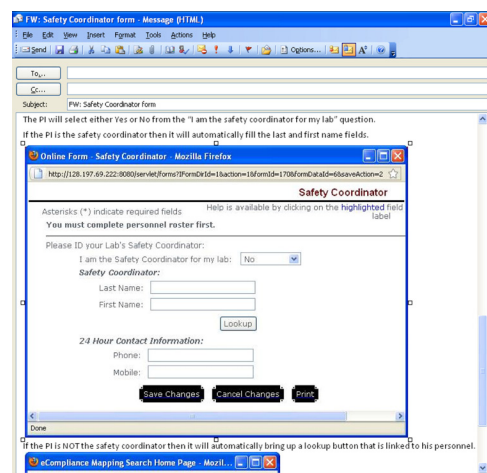


# What is a Safety Coordinator?

The Safety Coordinator is a person assigned by the Laboratory Supervisor/Principal Investigator (PI) to assist with safety and compliance efforts in the laboratory, as necessary. The duties of the Safety Coordinator include:

- Assist the PI with maintaining laboratory compliance;
- Act as a liaison to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to assist with lab safety inspections, coordinate safety training, and maintain overall lab compliance, including hazardous waste management.

The PI can designate a Safety Coordinator in RIMS by visiting [www.bu.edu/rims](http://www.bu.edu/rims), for more information contact your Research Safety Specialist.



## Surge Protectors and Powers Strips

As technology advances, more and more equipment in the laboratory uses electricity, and therefore requires an increased number of electric outlets.

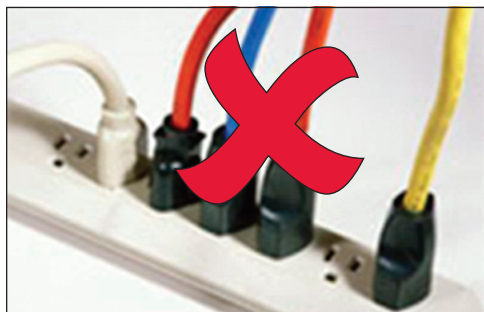
—A Multi-Outlet Strip (below) is not acceptable. Like an extension cord, it will produce an overload of power demand and potentially cause a fire.

—**Surge Protectors** (below) serve one immediate and obvious function: they protect equipment and electronics from surges in power. Computers and their components, as well as other sensitive electronic equipment should always be protected by a surge protector. However, a surge protector should not

be used because there are too few outlets in the laboratory. If you need additional electrical outlets installed, contact Facilities Management at 8-4211.

—Avoid surge protector overload, as pictured below.

**Always prior to use contact Facilities Management at 8-4211** **LS**



## ELECTRICAL PANEL BLOCKAGE IN LABORATORIES, SHOCKING!

Many researchers may have electrical panels, circuit breakers, switches, and other controls for the building's electrical system in their laboratories. Often, these are obstructed by many varieties of equipment, ranging from lab carts to freezers. This is not only an inconvenience to the electricians who need to services these panels but it



also violates federal regulations. According to 29 CFR 1910.303(g) and Table S-1, sufficient access and working space must be provided and maintained about all electric equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment. The regulation states that an area 30 inches wide or the width of the panel, whichever is greater, and 36 inches in front of the panel must be kept clear. There should also be space for the door to open at least 90 degrees. If you need assistance determining the appropriate clearance in front of electrical equipment in your laboratory, please don't hesitate to contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (8-8830). **LS**

## Training Corner

### Lab Safety Training:

Questions call OEHS, tel: 638-8830

### Keefer Auditorium:

3/11/10 .....9:30 - 11:00am

4/22/10.....9:30 - 11:00am

### Bakst Auditorium:

3/23/10.....1:30 - 3:00pm

4/07/10.....1:30 - 3:00pm

### L-112:

4/22/10.....9:30 - 11:00am

### Biological Shipping Training:

Questions call OEHS, tel: 638-8830

Evans Basement, RPO Conference Room

3/24/10.....9:30-12:00pm

For additional dates and times;

[www.bu.edu/research/compliance/oehs](http://www.bu.edu/research/compliance/oehs), click on Training