INTRODUCTION TO CHEMICAL SAFETY

Physics and Astronomy Basic Safety Training Session – Sept. 27th, 2024

Presenter: David Thomas, Director of Safety for the College of Science d.r.thomas@utah.edu



FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS



UNDERSTANDING HAZARDS OF CHEMICALS



"How do I fully understand the hazards of what I'm working with?"

Utilize a <u>combination</u> of:

- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) <u>https://youtu.be/QsppyUfqLpg?si=o4a5na8MJy_w8fhV</u>
- Colleagues
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

*If you are pregnant or might become pregnant, consult with an occupational medicine physician before working around chemicals. You have a right to choose in you want to work in a lab or not.

HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS

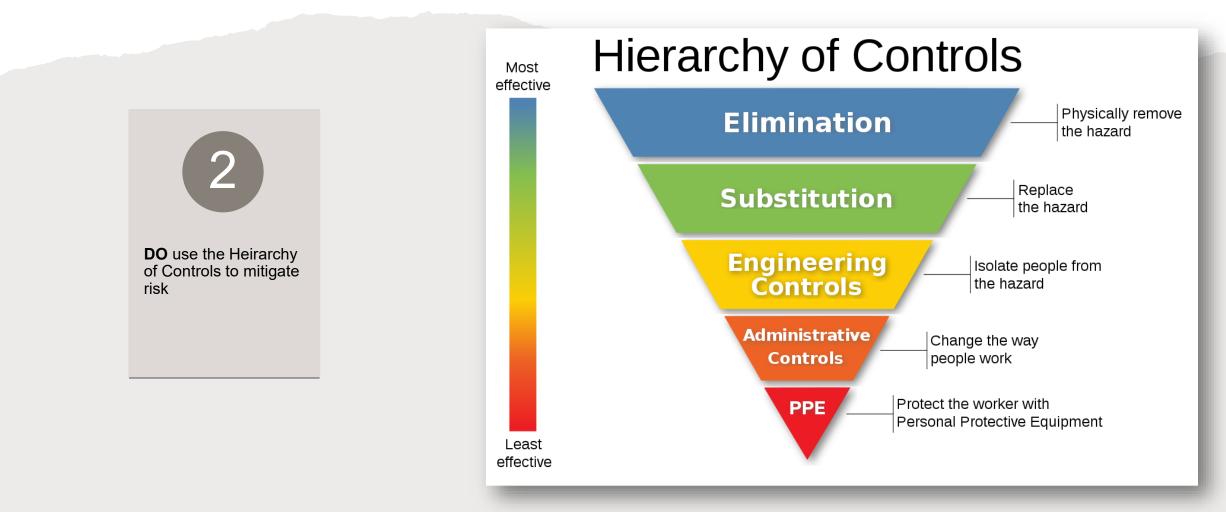


Image taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hierarchy_of_hazard_controls

CHOOSING PPE



PPE should be chosen based on hazards and processes you're working with.

- Minimum for "wet" lab (a lab containing chemicals or biologicals):
 - Safety glasses or splash goggles
 - Lab Coat
 - Fully closed shoes and full-length pants (or equivalent)
 - Gloves where appropriate
- Material, type, etc. dependent on what you're doing
- Your PI should provide *appropriate PPE* for you
- All labs must have a PPE hazard assessment

Material, type, etc. dependent on what you're doing



CHOOSING PPE

DO wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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General Recommendation Color Key

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This Chemical Resistance Guide incorporates three

(80) 430-4110, North also offers extended, an

Key to Degradation and Permeation Rating

Chemical Resistance Guide found at https://sps-support.honeywell.com/s/article/Chemical-Resistance-Guide-North-Gloves?tabset-3dec3=2



CHEMICAL RESISTANCE GUIDE

CHOOSING PPE

Material, type, etc. dependent on what you're doing

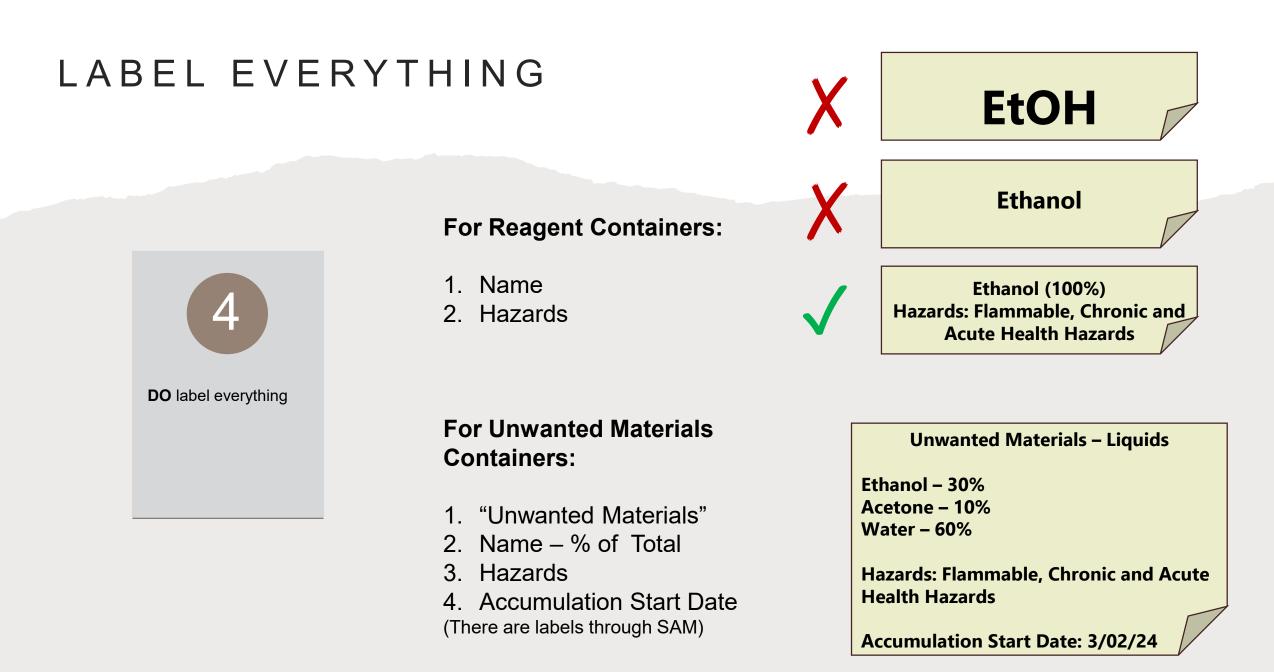






Some features to consider:

- Material
- Cuffs vs no cuffs
- Closure Mechanism



CHEMICAL STORAGE



DO store and dispose of reagents appropriately

Use Hazard Classes as Primary Tool to Segregate Chemicals

- Acids, Organic (Acetic Acid, etc.)
- Acids, Inorganic (Hydrochloric Acid, Sulfuric Acid, Nitric Acid, etc.)
- Bases, Organic (Diamine, Triethylamine, etc.)
- Bases, Inorganic (Sodium Hydroxide, Potassium Hydroxide, etc.)
- Flammables (Ethanol, Acetone, Hexanes, etc.)
- Oxidizers (Peroxides, Perchlorates, Nitrates, etc.)
- Water Reactives (Na/K/Li Metals, Alkali Metal Hydrides, etc.)

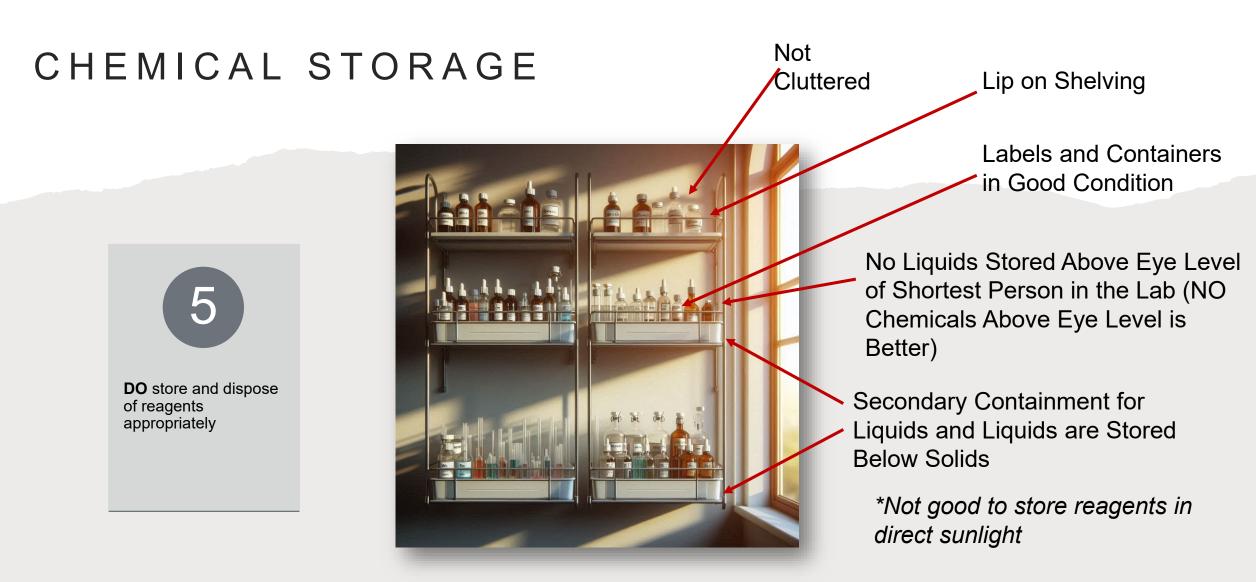
*Peroxide Formers (Diethyl Ether, THF, etc.) need special attention when stored in the lab





NIH Chemical Segregation Table: <u>https://ors.od.nih.gov/sr/dohs/Documents/chemical-segregation-</u>table.pdf

Images generated using Microsoft Copilot



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CHEMICAL STORAGE

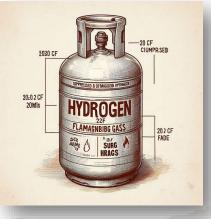
What about flammables that need to be kept cold?



NIH Chemical Segregation Table: <u>https://ors.od.nih.gov/sr/dohs/Documents/chemical-segregation-table.pdf</u>

Images taken from fishersci.com and lowes.com

CHEMICAL STORAGE





Compressed Gases Require Thoughtful Storage Too!

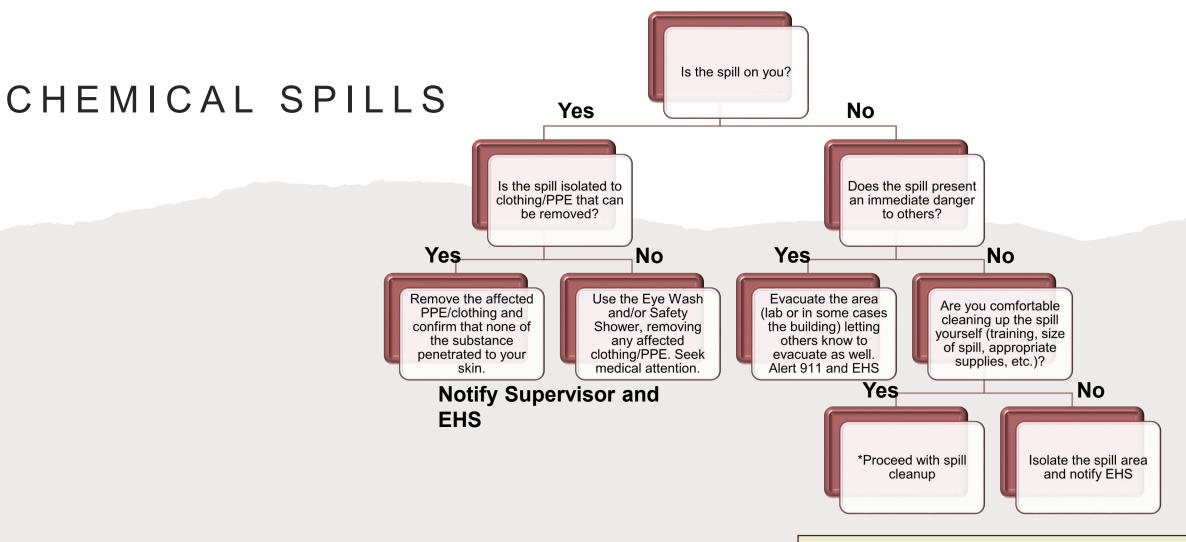
- Keep flammables and oxidizers separate (e.g. hydrogen and oxygen)
 - At least 20 feet or via a non-combustible physical barrier.
 - Flammable signage above or near flammable gasses
- Always secure cylinders before removing the safety cap and putting on a regulator
- Limit the number of cylinders stored in standard lab spaces to what is needed to maintain short-term operations. Labs should not be used to store large numbers of compressed gas cylinders.

EHS General Compressed Gas SOP/Fact Sheet:

https://d2vxd53ymoe6ju.cloudfront.net/wp-

NIH Chemical Segregation Tabletenttos://darts/psi//darts/pit/20/57/060120/908021/Ents/pressedelSessi-SO21106-2017.pdf

table.pdf



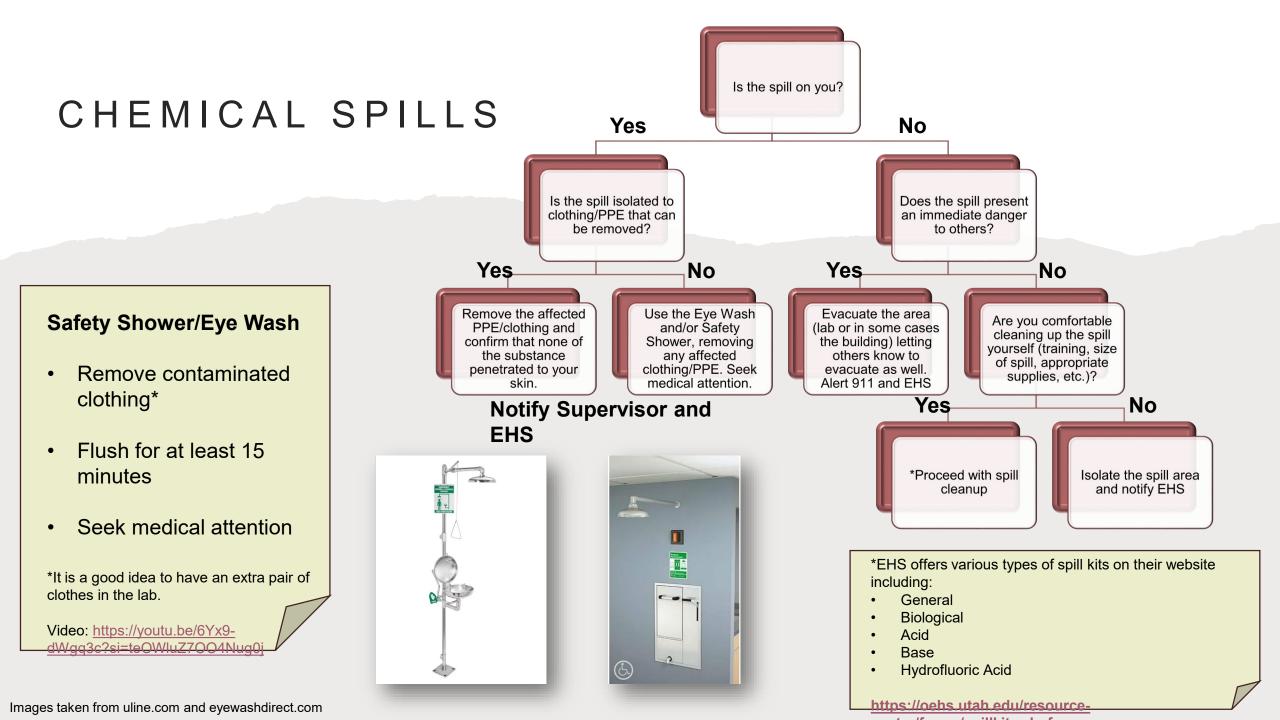
*EHS offers various types of spill kits on their website including:

- General
- Biological
- Acid

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- Base
- Hydrofluoric Acid

https://oehs.utah.edu/resource-



LEGACY CHEMICALS ARE A BIG PROBLEM

• Be vigilant.

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with

- You can help change this narrative!
- The U of U is a "mercury free" campus.

Holladay homeowner apologizes to neighbors for home explosion

By Shara Park, KSL-TV | Posted - April 26, 2024 at 6:19





Glove Box Cleanout in 2024 Total Person Hours Required = 18 hrs





Bromine Pentafluoride Police Escort ~\$30,000

Name: Silver Azide Amount: 25 g Primary Hazard: Highly Explosive



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Description	Unit	Fees	Estimated Cost
Mobilization/Demobilization (Little Rock, AR to Salt Lake City, UT)	Per Trip	\$ 2,635.00 (1)	\$ 2,635.00
Daily Rate (Labor, Lodging, Vehicle, Per Diem)	Per Day	\$ 1,875.00 (2)	\$ 3,750.00
Disposal of Silver Azide	Per Pipe	\$ 1,000.00 (1)	\$ 1,000.00
Rental of D.O.T. Pipe Shipper	Per Pipe	\$ 250.00 (1)	\$ 250.00
Transportation from Salt Lake City, UT to TSDF	Per Load	\$ 6,529.95 (1)	\$ 6,529.95
Transportation of Supplies	Per Load	\$ 500.00 (1)	\$ 500.00

Total Estimated Cost

\$ 14,664.95

RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE

University Bridge Trainings

https://utah.bridgeapp.com (Choose the "Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)" Section

- Chemical Hygiene ~ 45 min
- Laboratory Safety (10 steps) ~ 1-2 hrs
- Hazard Communications HazCom ~ 11 min

American Chemical Society (ACS) Institute

https://institute.acs.org/acs-center/lab-safety.html

- Foundations of Chemical Safety and Risk Management (Free) ~ 17 hrs
- Foundations for Storing, Organizing and Disposing of Chemicals in Educational Settings (Free) ~ 10 hrs

University of Utah Environmental Health and Safety

https://oehs.utah.edu/

- Resource Center
- Forms/Checklists