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Tips on Managing Laboratory Waste

By Ronnie Souza



<u>Radioactive Materials and Radiation-Producing Equipment</u>: In most laboratories, the quantity, isotope, and characteristics of radioactive materials used for research or teaching do not pose a serious dual-use risk. However, any radioactive materials can be perceived as a risk by the community. In the United States, use of radioactive materials is regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) or USNRC-authorized state agencies. Compulsory guidelines for security are included in the requirements for licensing and use of these materials. Specific USNRC security requirements typically vary depending on the risk of the material.

<u>Chemicals</u>: Chemical security is garnering increasing attention from regulators. Most regulations that require specific security measures are aimed at facilities with large stores of materials such as production facilities rather than laboratory-scale quantities. However, federal, state, and local regulatory agencies are increasingly applying standards to chemical laboratories.

Drug Enforcement Agency Chemicals: Illicit drugs and their precursors pose a theft risk because of their resale (street) value. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has strict rules abopcres os.ourimente

The following is a partial list of issues to review as part of a Security Vulnerability Assessment:

existing threats, based on the history of the institution (e.g., theft of laboratory materials, sabotage, data security breaches, protests);

the attractiveness of the institution as a target, and the potential impact of an incident;

chemicals, biological agents, radioactive materials, or other laboratory equipment or materials with dual-use potential;

sensitive data or computerized systems;

animal care facilities;

infrastructure vulnerabilities (e.g., accessible power lines, poor lighting);

security systems in place (e.g., access control, cameras, intrusion detection);

access controls for laboratory personnel (e.g., background checks, authorization procedures, badges, key controls, escorted access);

institutional procedures and culture (e.g., tailgating, open laboratories, no questioning of visitors);

security plans in place; and

training and awareness of laboratory personnel.

(Resource: National Center for Biotechnology Information: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)

It is important to report any suspicious activity or unlawful entry in lab areas to UNE Security so that the proper authorities can be notified. If you or any of your lab staff notice anything unusual or anything that is missing from a laboratory area, it should be reported immediately.



The Importance of Hazardous Waste Regulations

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UNE Chemical Sharing Program

The UNE Chemical Sharing Program is a great way to reduce hazardous waste, reduce costs for your department, and have a positive environmental impact on campus. If you have any commonly used lab chemicals that you are thinking of disposing, please contact EHS so they can be listed in the next issues of EHS Lab Chatter as available for the UNE Chemical Sharing Program.

Chemicals currently available: None

Lab Safety Video of the Month: UCLA Pipette Safety & Ergonomics Video



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqAsXMSs27s



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