



Title of SOP: General Use SOP for Irritants		
SOP Originator: Chuck Cooper	Date Created: 4/23/2013	Effective Date: 4/23/2013
Name:	Name	Last edited Date:
EHS Reviewer: Lindsay Henderson	Date Reviewed: 4/27/2017	Document #: 8

PURPOSE:

This standard operating procedure (SOP) is intended to provide general guidance on how to safely work with irritants. As irritation is only a secondary health effect with many substances, ensure to account for other more significant hazards such as carcinogenicity and corrosivity. If you have questions concerning the applicability of any item listed in this procedure contact the Principal Investigator/Laboratory Supervisor of your laboratory or Environmental Health and Safety (x5-4312).

SCOPE:

Irritants are chemicals that cause reversible inflammatory effects on living tissue by chemical action at the site of contact. A wide variety of organic and inorganic compounds are irritants; thus, skin contact with all laboratory chemicals should be avoided.

APPLICABILITY:

Control of Hazards- General:

Handling processes should be designed to minimize the potential for splash, splatter, or other likely scenarios for accidental contact.

PROCEDURE:

Engineering/Ventilation Controls:

Use a properly functioning lab fume hood when handling irritants that can be inhaled (via mist/fume/gas/vapor). If the process does not permit the handling of such materials in a fume hood, contact Environmental Health and Safety at x5-4312 for review the adequacy of ventilation measures.

Personal Protective Equipment:

At minimum, safety glasses, lab coat, long pants, and closed toed shoes are to be worn when entering laboratories having hazardous chemicals.

Additionally:

- When handling hazardous chemicals or contacting potentially contaminated surfaces, protective gloves are to be worn. For proper selection of glove material, review chemical MSDS and [glove selection guidance](#).
- Goggles (not safety glasses) are appropriate for processes where splash or spray is foreseeable.
- For hazardous chemicals that are toxic via skin contact/ absorption, additional protective clothing (i.e., face shield, apron, over sleeves) is appropriate where chemical contact with body/skin is foreseeable.

Special Handling Procedures and Storage Requirements:

Ensure secondary containment and segregation of incompatible chemicals per guidance within the Chemical Hygiene Plan. Also, follow any substance-specific storage guidance provided in MSDS documentation.

Spill and Accident Procedures:

Prompt response to chemical spills is critical to protect worker health & safety and to mitigate adverse effects to the environment.

Laboratory personnel who work with hazardous chemicals are to be provided the opportunity to receive medical attention/consultation when:

- A spill, leak, explosion or other occurrence results in a hazardous exposure (potential overexposure).
- Symptoms or signs of exposure to a hazardous chemical develop.

Waste Disposal:

Irritant substances intended for disposal may likely be considered hazardous wastes.

Minimum Training Requirements:

- Laboratory-specific training

Approval Required:

Consult with PI regarding need for prior approval. Laboratory personnel shall seek and the PI must provide prior approval of any chemical usage involving the following list of [restricted chemicals](#).

Decontamination Procedures:

Personnel: If immediate medical attention is required, call 911. Remove any contaminated clothing, and IMMEDIATELY flush contaminated skin with water for at least 15 minutes following any skin contact. For eye exposures, IMMEDIATELY flush eyes w/ water for at least 15 minutes.

Consult MSDS for guidance on appropriate first aid. Where medical attention is required, ensure to bring along MSDS(s) of chemical(s) to aid medical staff in proper diagnosis and treatment.

Area: Carefully clean work area after use. Decontamination procedures vary depending on the material being handled.

Designated Area:

For irritants that are also considered particularly hazardous substances, a designated area shall be established per other applicable SOPs.

ATTACHMENTS:

Glove Selection

Restricted Chemicals