

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are crucial for conducting research projects safely.

The process of identifying hazards, determining the severity of potential risks and establishing suitable/proper control measures are key components to keep the academic community safe.

- Risk assessments for planned research should be undertaken **before** proceeding with research activities.
- Reviewing Safety Data Sheets (SDS), scheduling consultation with the EHS staff and discussing the work projects are important in determining the risks, and how to address and control them.
- Risk assessments should be revised periodically. Especially with any changes of the research experiment, e.g. introducing new chemicals, adding steps to the process, new equipment, change in concentration of previously assessed chemical, etc.
- To minimize risks, the hierarchy of controls is followed by using elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE. EHS helps establish the hierarchy of controls. Contact the EHS office at ehs-group@pdx.edu to schedule a consultation.



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