

Upcoming Lab Safety Trainings:

April 21st 2023, 10:00am–1:00pm

May 19th, 2021 10:00am–1:00pm

Sign up: [Safety Training form](#)

TRAINING



The Micro Gram

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A lab safety newsletter
for the PSU campus
community.



Join PSU's lab safety community by becoming a [Lab Safety Lead](#)! All research labs are encouraged to participate.

Lessons Learned

Nitrogen Dewar Tip-over Incident
Ames, IA – February 2023

A lab employee was moving a full 230 Liter (L) round base liquid nitrogen (LN2) Dewar from the loading dock to inside the building. The lab employee was pulling the Dewar across the door threshold when one of the casters stuck against the threshold bringing the Dewar to an abrupt halt. The more than 500-pound Dewar tipped over, knocking them to the ground. They were temporarily pinned beneath the Dewar, but thankfully did not sustain serious injury.

It was determined through analysis that the caster location in relation to the handles was partly to blame in the cause of the incident. The employee being unfamiliar with the route of travel was another contributing factor. When performing material handling of potentially awkward and heavy items, workers need to be aware of the route of travel and the ability to identify any hazards that may exist. Wheeled devices, surface transitions and passage through doorways with a large, top-heavy item can create a hazardous situation.



Personal protective equipment (PPE) helps to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses.

These injuries and illnesses may result from contact with chemical, radiological, physical, electrical, mechanical, or other workplace hazards.

Personal Protective Equipment and General Lab Attire

- Basic protection for most laboratories includes safety goggles, white lab coat, shoes and proper shirts/pants.
- Closed-toed shoes are essential in a laboratory to protect yourself from chemical splashes or broken glass.
- Chemical splash goggles and face shields should be worn when there is a risk of splashing hazardous materials or flying particles.
- If respirators are to be used for protection against airborne contaminants, equipment listed and approved by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and NIOSH may be used if properly selected and fit-tested as part of PSU's Respiratory Protection Program.
- Any laboratory operation that exposes laboratory personnel to a significant noise source of 85 decibels or greater for an 8-hour average duration should utilize hearing protection in the form of plugs or muffs.



PORTLAND STATE



LABS

Portland State

Green Tip of the Spring:

Always close your fume hood sash when you are not actively using the fume hood.

Make sure ALL fume hood sashes are closed at the end of the day and before the weekend.



Have a suggestion for a lab safety topic?
Email: lindsah@pdx.edu



Click on hyperlinks to learn more

[News from Environmental Health & Safety at PSU](#)