

Upcoming Lab Safety Trainings:

Oct 18th 2024 10:00am–1:00pm
Nov 15th 2024 10:00am–1:00pm
Sign up: [Safety Training form](#)



Let safety be a sponge –
soak it up

The Micro Gram
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The premier lab safety newsletter for the PSU campus community.
 Portland State
Environmental Health & Safety

How is your lab’s chemical storage?

A recent news article titled, “[Investigation underway into chemical storage at New Mexico Highlands University after death](#)”, highlights the potential worst case scenario from improperly stored chemicals. Now is a great time to review the PSU [Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) to make sure your lab is following best chemical storage practices.

Free training opportunity:

- On Demand - [Foundations for Storing, Organizing and Disposing of Chemicals in Educational Settings](#) - This course frames chemical management using the RAMP management system: Recognize hazards, Assess the risks of the hazards, Minimize and manage the risks of the hazards, and Prepare for the unexpected and emergencies.

Does your lab work with dichloromethane (DCM)? This may be relevant to you:

On April 30, 2024 the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule that [prohibits nearly all uses of methylene chloride](#) (dichloromethane (DCM)). To the relief of many academic chemists, the EPA carved out a number of exceptions to the ban, including the solvent’s use as a laboratory chemical.

But upon closer inspection of the regulation, researchers in the US are realizing that to keep using DCM in their labs, they will need to conduct baseline monitoring and implement strict workplace safety measures—all in about a year.

In an article titled, “[What does the new EPA methylene chloride rule mean for academic labs?](#)”, a deeper look into how this new rule may impact our academic labs is discussed.

All labs who currently have DCM listed in their PSU chemical inventory will be receiving an initial request to complete the [Dichloromethane \(DCM\) Use Intake Form](#).

Some important compliance deadlines:

- Initial monitoring inhalation exposures to dichloromethane must be complete. | May 5, 2025
- Ensuring those exposures do not exceed EPA limits and providing additional personal protective equipment, if applicable. | Aug. 1, 2025

October is the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA) Biosafety Awareness Month

Launched in 2013, this initiative was created to promote awareness of biosafety, biosecurity, and biorisk management as a profession and to help those who work with or around biohazards understand how biosafety precautions work to protect them, their colleagues, and the environment from biohazard risks.

PSU is promoting International Biosafety Month by creating several helpful documents to make the process of acquiring approval to work with recombinant DNA and other potentially biohazardous material more straightforward.

To find out if your research may need approval through the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), visit the [PSU Biosafety Program](#) website.



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GET READY FOR
“FALL” SEASON!

• Preventing Slips, Trips, & Falls •

Rainy season is here on campus, bringing with it slippery surfaces, reduced visibility, and unpredictable weather. Take extra precaution in the park blocks and around construction zones!

TIPS

- Stay alert for uneven surfaces
- Be aware of fallen leaves and debris
- Slow down and take short strides



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](#)