

Upcoming Lab Safety Trainings:

April 18th 2025 10:00am-1:00pm
May 2nd 2025 10:00am-1:00pm
Sign up: [Safety Training form](#)



Let safety be a sponge –
soak it up

The Micro Gram

Volume 7, Issue 3 Spring Edition April 14th 2025

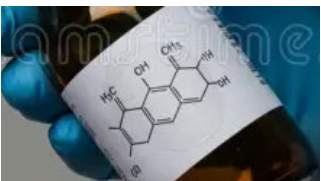
The premier research safety newsletter for the PSU campus community.



All About Labeling!

All containers housing chemicals, specimens and samples **need** to be properly labeled. This goes for secondary and temporary containers too. Mislabeling or failing to label chemicals can lead to:

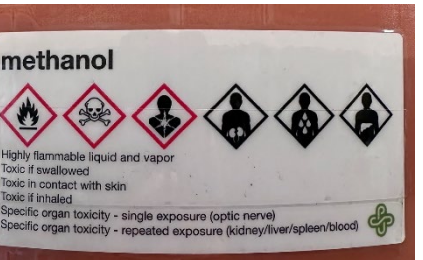
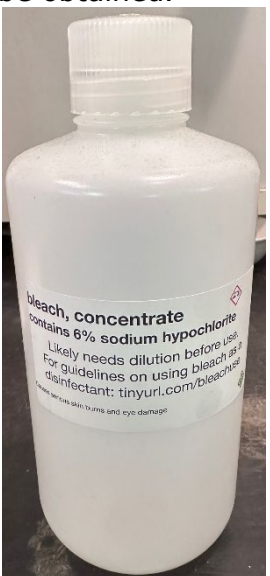
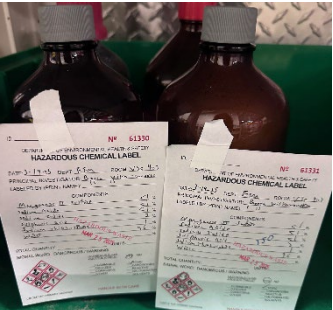
- Accidental chemical misuse
- Dangerous reactions or spills
- Non-compliance penalties
- Inefficient lab operations



Please refer to the [PSU Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) for campus specific guidance and for assistance on where proper labels may be obtained.

Avoid these common pitfalls:

- Don't use generic labels
- Don't skip labeling temporary containers
- Don't cover existing labels
- Don't rely on memory
- Don't use abbreviations
- Don't ignore fading labels
- Don't mix old and new labels



Labeling Continued...

Best practices include:

- Ensure every container has a label
 - No container should be left unidentified. Clearly identify temporary containers used during experiments to avoid confusion and maintain safety. This includes waste too!
- Include key information
 - Clearly display the chemical name, concentration, and any hazards. Use full names rather than abbreviations to avoid confusion. Add opened on dates or storage.
- Use durable labels
 - Select labels that are waterproof, chemical-resistant, and adhesive.
- Follow regulatory standards
 - Ensure labels comply with [OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard](#) and [GHS \(Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals\)](#) requirements.
- Incorporate hazard symbols
- Maintain legibility
 - Use clear, legible fonts and ensure the label is not obstructed by tape or other materials. Avoid handwritten labels.
- Update labels when necessary
 - Revise labels promptly if the chemical is transferred, diluted, or has been stored for an extended period.
- Train personnel
 - Be sure that all lab personnel are up to date on their annual [Working Safely in the Lab training](#) and that all new members are trained by veteran lab members.

Chemical Hygiene Committee
Corner: [Guidance for Working with Service Animals and Their Handlers in Labs/Shops](#)

The Chemical Hygiene Committee (CHC) has been working closely with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for some time now, with the goal to provide guidance on how to best provide a safe lab (and field) experience for all.

The most recent collaboration resulted in the creation of safety guidance and resources to our handler(s) with service animal(s) who will be participating in lab or field work environments as part of their PSU experience.

This document also serves as a resource for faculty and teaching assistants. Staff, faculty, and students may not interfere with the individual's right to have a service animal present with the individual.

Accommodations will be made when the student requests them through the DRC. A hazard assessment will be provided by EHS on a case by case basis, to determine what will be needed to assure safety for all.



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](#)