

Research Facility Security

A message from the UAB OH&S Research Safety Team:

The tragic events of September 11 encourage all of us to review our own work place security. In light of the continued concern about the possible use of biological, chemical, and radioactive materials as agents for terrorism, it is more important than ever that each of us take responsibility for the security of our laboratories and research facilities. In addition to practices already in place to control unauthorized entry to laboratory areas where hazardous materials are present, consider these common sense approaches to facility security:

- Recognize that laboratory security is related to but different from laboratory safety.
- Control access to areas where hazardous materials are used and stored. If the lab is left unattended, lock it.
- Freezers and incubators, where hazardous materials are in use or stored but located in unattended areas, should be locked to prevent access by unauthorized personnel.
- Know who is in the laboratory area. Only authorized persons should have access to laboratory areas where hazardous materials are present. All workers should wear visible identification badges.
- Know what materials are being brought into and removed from the laboratory area. Keep an up-to-date inventory of hazardous materials.
- Have emergency phone numbers handy and conveniently posted near phones.
- Notify UAB Police of any suspicious visitors or activities.
- If you notice that materials have been removed from your work area, notify UAB Police immediately.
- Follow UAB Policy for reporting accidents and incidents.

The UAB Department of Occupational Health & Safety staff is committed to helping you maintain a safe work environment here at UAB. Please visit our web site at <http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu> for other safety related information.