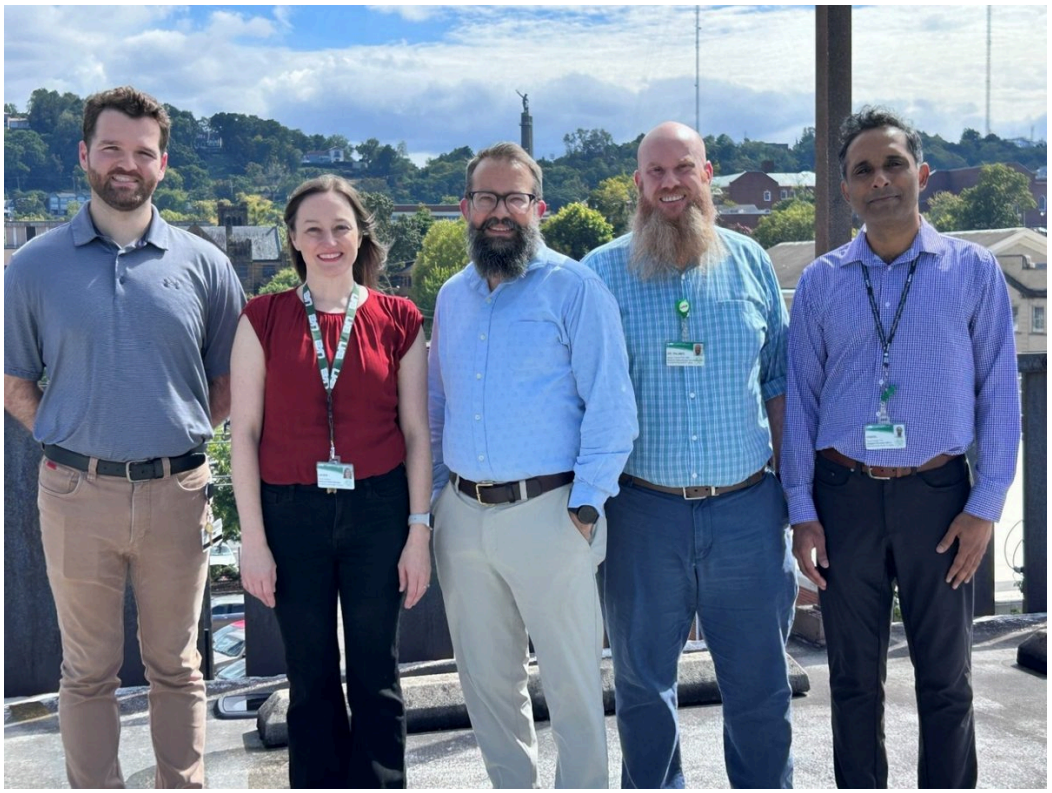
Safety Shorts

UAB Environmental Health and Safety

Laboratory Safety Updates & Resources

Celebrating Biosafety and Biosecurity Month: Meet Our Biosafety Team

October is Biosafety and Biosecurity Month, a time to highlight the importance of protecting our people, research, and community through safe laboratory practices and responsible stewardship of biological materials. Our Biosafety team plays an essential role in supporting researchers, promoting compliance, and helping ensure a safe and secure research environment. Let's take a moment to get to know the team members who help make this work possible!



The UAB Biosafety Team partners with researchers to promote a safe and successful research environment through consultation, risk assessment, training, inspections, and guidance on biosafety requirements. Pictured left to right:

Ian Doty, Research Safety Manager: Ian oversees the research medical waste program, conducts laboratory and animal facility inspections, develops training, and supports laboratory startup and closeout activities.

Laura Caltrider, Research Safety Manager: Laura provides biosafety consultation, training, and regulatory guidance, with expertise in infectious sample transport, Stericycle waste management, and spill response.

Brian LaGory, Senior Biosafety Officer: Brian leads the Biosafety Team and serves as a subject matter expert on biosafety regulations and associated policy development.

Joseph Palmer, Research Safety: Joseph oversees biological risk assessment, compliance, operations, training, and emergency preparedness for UAB's high-containment laboratory, SEBLAB.

Vineel P. Reddy, Assistant Biosafety Officer and Responsible Official: Vineel coordinates the Select Agent Program and supports IBC protocol review, laboratory inspections, risk assessments, biosafety training, and consultation.

October Is Fire Prevention Month

Fire Prevention Month is a great reminder that small steps can make a big difference in preventing fires and keeping our campus safe. Take a moment to review fire safety practices and help prevent incidents before they happen!



According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there are approximately 16,500 office and store fires that occur yearly in the United States, resulting in over $932 million in property loss and damage. Fires in the workplace can be disastrous, resulting in significant property damage, disruption to operations, and the potential for serious injury or loss of life.

Fire prevention plays a direct role in reducing the potential for fire-related losses and protecting our campus community. We should all take preventative measures to help reduce fire risks and maintain a safe work environment.

Simple ways you can help prevent fires:

- Keep exits, corridors, stairwells, and fire doors clear.
- Keep fire extinguishers, alarm pull stations, and other fire protection equipment accessible.
- Do not overload electrical outlets or power strips.
- Do not use damaged electrical cords or equipment.
- Keep combustible materials away from heat-producing equipment.
- Maintain good housekeeping and promptly remove unnecessary combustible materials.
- Use appliances such as coffee makers and microwaves only in designated areas.
- Never disable or tamper with fire alarm, sprinkler, or other fire protection systems.
- Report fire hazards, electrical concerns, blocked exits, or damaged fire protection equipment.
- Know your building's evacuation routes and designated assembly areas.

🔬 Laboratory Safety Workshop

Enhance Your Laboratory Safety Knowledge

Join EH&S for an upcoming Laboratory Safety Workshop designed for faculty, staff, researchers, laboratory managers, and students.



Topics may include:

- Hazard identification and risk assessment
- Chemical safety best practices
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Laboratory inspections and compliance

Date: Thursday, October 22, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: Check in at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in CH19 (Press B in the elevator)
Registration:

1. Go to the Laboratory Safety Workshop Course in the Campus LMS
2. Click "Login with BlazerID"
3. Click the green "ENROLL" button

Whether you are new to the laboratory or an experienced researcher, this workshop offers valuable guidance and practical safety information.

Enhancements to Chemical SOP Requirements

EH&S has introduced improvements to streamline and strengthen Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) resources for chemical use.

Moving forward, rather than requiring laboratories to develop SOPs for individual chemicals, EH&S will provide standardized SOPs based on chemical classes. The only exception will be certain highly hazardous chemicals, such as hydrofluoric acid (HF), dichloromethane (DCM), and other similarly high-risk substances, for which lab-specific SOPs may still be required.

This enhancement is designed to provide laboratories with clearer, more consistent guidance while supporting safe and effective chemical handling practices.

EH&S is actively developing these chemical class SOPs and is working diligently to make them available to laboratories as soon as possible. Additional information and implementation timelines will be shared once finalized.

📢 Safety Reminder: Keep Lab Workspaces Clear

A clean and organized lab is a safer lab! Keep aisles, exits, eyewash stations, safety showers, and fire extinguishers free of obstructions, so they are accessible when needed. Store chemicals and equipment properly, clean up spills promptly when safe to do so, and keep work areas free of unnecessary clutter. A few seconds spent maintaining a safe workspace can make a big difference in an emergency.

About Safety Shorts

Safety Shorts is a publication of UAB Environmental Health and Safety.

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