Laboratory Safety and Compliance:

Information for Principal Investigators and Instructors in a Research Laboratory

As the principal investigator in a research laboratory or an instructor in a teaching lab, you are responsible for maintaining a safe environment for students, staff, and faculty. There are quite a few resources in place to assist you with this.

The department of Environmental Health and Safety offers several varieties of online lab safety training:

- **New Employee/Student Training** is for anyone that is new to Creighton.

- An annual refresher is available for those that have taken New Employee/Student Training in the past. This is updated each year; it includes information on a new topic each year, along with topics that need to be covered more frequently, such as emergency situations and hazardous waste disposal.

- There’s a separate training for the Teaching Assistants (TAs) in Chemistry and Biology and one for the Physics Department.

- **Lab Safety for Visitors** is intended for the occasional visitor to the lab; this includes contractors, administrative personnel, etc.

In addition, the office of Research and Compliance Services offers further training for lab workers.

People working with radiation can contact the Radiation Safety Office for further information and training.

Several books provide quite a bit of guidance for safety in laboratories and are highly recommended as references:

- **Prudent Practices in the Lab** is an excellent book that is the standard for laboratory chemical safety. The book can be viewed in its entirety or downloaded at the link.

- **Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories** is an “advisory document recommending best practices for the safe conduct of work in biomedical and clinical laboratories from a biosafety perspective”.

- **Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories for students** (ACS, 7th edition) and **Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories for faculty** (ACS, 7th edition) are also excellent resources for safety in laboratories.

The university hosts both a Campus Safety Committee and a Laboratory Safety Committee. Please contact us if you’re interested in serving on either of these committees.

**SUBMITTER INFORMATION:**

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