Is your lab's training up to date?

Check the Training tab in LATCH for EHS training records. A valid, 8-digit UF ID number (without hyphens and spaces) must be listed under your Gator TRACS profile for records to accurately populate. All training must be registered through MyTraining. Please find upcoming in-person training sessions listed in this section. EHS864 - Lab Safety Overview can be topic-specific as needed.

New Module Announcement

Beginning early Spring 2020, Gator TRACS will support the online submission, review, approval, and tracking of Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and EHS Biosafety project registrations, amendments and annual updates. An email will be sent out detailing more information.
In each newsletter, we will highlight 2 inspection questions explaining the importance of each item and how to prevent corrective actions.

**Is storage of items in chemical fume hoods kept to a minimum?**

Materials stored in fume hoods should be kept to a minimum and stored in a manner that will not interfere with airflow. This can be accomplished by allowing at least 3-inch spaces between containers so air can flow around them to the back exhaust slot. Also allow at least 3 inches between any items and the fume hood walls. **Place bulky equipment towards the rear of the hood and raise it about 2 inches off the surface** using a fume hood shelf or rubber stoppers/blocks. This will allow airflow around and under the equipment. Although equipment must be moved towards the rear of the hood, do not place it against the rear wall, as it will block airflow to the rear baffles. In addition to obstructing air flow, lack of work space in the hood can potentially lead to spills or accidents.

**Are ceiling tiles in place in the lab?**
Properly installed ceiling systems allow smoke detectors, heat detectors and fire sprinklers to operate correctly in the event of a fire. They also provide a barrier to stop the spread of smoke and fire. Breaking, displacing or removing ceiling tiles enables hot gases and smoke to rise and accumulate above detectors and sprinklers. This may cause a delay in activation, enabling fires to rapidly grow larger before an alarm and response occur.

**SAFETY TIP**

Always wash your hands after removing your gloves! Failure to wash your hands after removing your gloves may result in transmission of pathogens and/or chemicals from your hands to your mucous membranes, or contamination of nearby surfaces, posing a risk to others in the lab.
It is especially critical that researchers take extra precautions during periods of campus closure when the number of individuals present in laboratories is greatly diminished. While ongoing research often continues beyond normal business hours and after regularly scheduled closure times, research staff should not work alone on experimental procedures involving hazardous chemicals, biohazardous materials, or high physical hazards. All accidents, fires, hazardous materials spills, or other incidents, should immediately be reported to UPD at 352-392-1111 during campus closure periods.