

# ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENT SAFETY

Many labs use intricate analytical instrumentation to perform parts of their experiments. Although each type of instrument will have its own specific safety information, there are some general guidelines to follow whenever operating an instrument.

1. Always keep the manufacturer's operating manual with the instrument.
2. In addition to being trained by qualified lab personnel, new operators should familiarize themselves with the operating manual, including all pertinent safety information.
3. Never remove hazard-warning labels from an instrument.
4. Have a certified technician perform or oversee repairs.
5. Disconnect instrument from power-source whenever conducting maintenance inside the instrument.
6. Ensure that all instruments use a 3-pronged electrical plug.
7. If the instrument is used near any source of water, ensure that it is plugged into an outlet equipped with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.
8. If compressed gases are used with the instrument, follow UF Compressed Gas Rules: the cylinder is always secured, always check new connections for leaks, etc.
9. Be aware of the unique hazards of your instrument. (i.e. – lasers, UV light, radiation sources, etc.)
10. Use protective equipment recommended by the manufacturer when using the instrument. (i.e. – hearing protection, face shield, etc.)
11. Always use the buddy system when working in the lab to ensure your safety should an accident occur.