

UE Department of Chemistry

Safety Equipment

1. Safety showers and eye wash stations: During your first lab session you will learn the location of the closest safety showers and eye wash stations. There are four safety showers on the third floor of the Koch Center: one is located in the men's restroom, one is located in the woman's restroom, and the other two are in the atrium hallway; one between KC 337 and KC 338, and the other between KC 339 and KC 340. There will be an eyewash station in each lab.
2. Sink: While the sink is used primarily to wash and clean glassware, it can also be used to treat chemical spills on your arms and hands. If such a spill occurs, then move as quickly as possible to the nearest sink in the lab and treat appropriately. The treatment will typically include flushing with copious amounts of cold water for at least 15 minutes.
3. Fire Extinguishers: Each lab is equipped with either a 5# or 10# ABC type of fire extinguisher. Please note the location in your lab and how it is mounted on the wall. Typically, a fire extinguisher will be operated by the instructor or lab assistant who have been trained in its use. However, if you ever need to use a fire extinguisher, remember the following: a) pull the pin, b) aim to the side of the fire at first, c) depress the handle, and d) sweep the spray from side to side at the base of the fire.
4. First Aid Kit: A first aid kit is located in each laboratory and your lab instructor will inform you of its location on your first lab meeting. It contains items such as adhesive bandages, gauze pads, antibiotic ointment, and cleansing wipes. If any injury occurs which cannot be handled with these supplies, the student will be referred to the Health Center (Sampson Hall) or (if the injury is severe) to emergency services.
5. Fume Hoods: Fume hoods are designed to protect you from harmful fumes, gases, and odors that may be generated during an experiment or when volatile solvents and chemicals are used. Any time your experiment will produce fumes, you will perform the experiment in the fume hood.
6. Broom and Dust Pan: Each lab also has a broom and dust pan to be used to sweep up broken glass. Never pick up broken glass by hand and be sure to dispose in the container specifically designed to hold broken glass. Spend time in your first lab meeting to locate these items. The broom and dust pan may also be used to sweep up spilled chemicals after they have been contained with an absorbent.