

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are crucial for conducting research projects safely.

The process of identifying hazards, determining the severity of potential risks and establishing suitable/proper control measures in place are key components to keep the academic community safe.

- Risk assessments of planned research should be undertaken **before** proceeding with research activities.
- Reviewing Safety Data Sheets (SDS), scheduling consultation with the EHS staff and discussing the work projects are important in determining the risks and how to address and control them.
- Risk assessments should be revised periodically. Especially with any changes of the research experiment, like introducing new chemicals or hazardous agents, or adding steps to the process, new equipment, change in concentration of already assessed chemical etc.
- To minimize risks, the hierarchy of controls is used, done by elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and PPE. EHS will assist with establishing the hierarchy of controls.

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