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Working Alone in the Lab v.1

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ABSTRACT

Working alone in the laboratory should be avoided; however, trained personnel can work alone in the laboratory if they adhere to the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Students in training (during at least the 1st semester of laboratory work) cannot work alone in the laboratory.

EXTERNAL LINK

<https://chem.byu.edu/static/media/uploads/files/chemistrydeptsafetyplan.pdf>

GUIDELINES

All personnel who are subject to these SOP requirements must review a completed SOP and sign the associated training record. Completed SOPs are readily accessible to laboratory personnel via protocols.io. SOPs must be reviewed and revised where needed, as described in the [Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Chemical Hygiene Plan](#).

BEFORE START

Working alone in the laboratory should be avoided; however, trained personnel can work alone in the laboratory if they adhere to the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Students in training (during at least the 1st semester of laboratory work) cannot work alone in the laboratory.

SAFETY WARNINGS

1. HAZARD OVERVIEW

Working alone in the laboratory creates potential safety risks that are not present while working with others. Having no other person in sight or sound of voice could cause increased time for help. Some potential safety risks are:

- If an injury occurs, there will not be another person in close proximity to assist the injured person.
- If a spill happens, there is not another person around to help clean up the spill.
- If a person becomes unconscious, there is not another person to request medical help.

When working alone in the lab, special precautions must be followed.

2. PRECAUTIONS

1. Know where the nearest safety equipment is and how to use it.
2. Do not perform any experiments that use pyrophoric materials or acutely toxic gases.
3. Gain your advisor's permission for the specific experiments you will be doing before performing them. No deviations from working SOPs without your advisor's permission.
4. Identify who could be contacted in the event of needing help. This could be a person in another lab, your advisor, lab manager, or safety coordinator.
5. Have someone periodically check on your safety.

6. Minors (under age 18) are not allowed to work alone in the lab.
7. Have accessible the cell phone numbers of advisor, safety coordinator, or lab manager.
8. Do not work alone when tired or feeling ill.
9. Use and follow procedures found in Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for spill cleanup.
10. Discuss with your advisor which equipment you can and cannot use while working alone.

BEFORE STARTING

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