

Laboratory Safety

Safety is an important concern in research and teaching laboratories. At Case Western Reserve University, the Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety (DOES) helps the faculty insure that all labs meet standards set by the state and federal governments. The DOES web site (<http://does.cwru.edu/>) contains a list and URL links of some government agencies involved in laboratory safety. The DOES web site also includes safety manuals and training information. Feel free to explore this site to learn more about the regulatory environment that governs our laboratories and safeguards the health of students, employees and the general public. If you intend to continue in any field of science or engineering, you will be required by law to go through a training regimen and become familiar with the regulations relevant to your field.

In the Introductory Physics Laboratories, a special effort has been made to avoid experiments and materials that present a potential hazard or require special training. However you should be aware that this is the exception rather than the rule in a laboratory. In those rare cases where some danger may exist in the Introductory Physics Laboratories (high voltages, blinding light, etc.), the experiments have been set up to minimize any danger and you will receive specific warnings about how to use the equipment.

Government Agencies that Regulate Laboratory Safety

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OH EPA)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Ohio Department of Health (ODH)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

Fedworld Information Network

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)