

# SSM Safety Policies & Procedures

The School of Sciences and Mathematics of the College of Charleston understands that the safety of our students, staff and faculty is of paramount importance. Engendering a safety culture is an important part of our mission in teaching and doing science. Each department, course of instruction, or research lab may require higher standards or procedures. The policies and procedures set forth below are understood to be minimum requirements across our departments.

In this document, the term "laboratory" is meant for a work space/facility where chemicals, biological agents, or equipment is used for research and/or instruction.

No one (student, staff, faculty, or visitor) will be allowed in a laboratory (teaching or research) to perform experiments or where experiments may be in progress unless these regulations are followed.

Students dismissed from a teaching lab due to violations of the safety procedures will not be allowed to re-enter the laboratory until authorized to do so by their supervisor (instructor) and, in the case of research laboratories, by the department chair or designee. Any course work missed because of a violation of these guidelines cannot be made up at another time (or by an extension of the lab period) and will be treated as an unexcused absence.

1. You are responsible for knowing the biological, chemical, electrical, ergonomic, mechanical, and physical hazards associated with the equipment and materials that are being utilized in the laboratory. Listen to all instructions and ask questions about that which you do not understand.
2. Know the location of safety equipment: telephones, emergency shower, eyewash, fire extinguisher, fire alarm pull.
3. Know the appropriate emergency response procedures. If there is an injury or emergency, call 953-5611.
4. Do not work alone in the laboratory if you are working with hazardous materials or equipment.
5. Use hazardous chemicals, equipment, and biological agents only as directed and for their intended purpose.
6. Do not engage in horseplay, pranks or other acts of mischief while in lab.
7. Drinking, eating, and application of cosmetics is forbidden in laboratories where chemicals or biohazards are present. Smoking is forbidden in all College buildings.
8. Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be worn. The dress code for laboratory work when using chemicals, biological or physical hazards, or when instructed to do so by the laboratory supervisor is as follows:
  - (a) Wear safety glasses or goggles at all times.
  - (b) No exposed skin on arms, legs or torso.
  - (c) Wear lab coats or other approved protective garments.
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  - (e) Wear lab coats or other approved protective garments.
  - (f) Wear gloves or other personal protective equipment (PPE) as directed by the instructor or mandated by prudent practices based on the chemicals being handled. If in doubt, wear appropriate gloves. Latex is not permitted. Avoid cross-contamination.

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  - (j) Remove PPE (gloves and lab coat) when exiting the laboratory.
  - (k) Wash your hands, even if gloves were used, before leaving a lab where you did any lab work.
  - (l) Closed toe shoes are required. The heel and top of foot must be covered. High heeled shoes, sandals, and perforated shoes are not permitted.
  - (m) Confine long hair and loose clothing.
9. Inspect equipment or apparatus for damage before adding chemical reagents or biological samples or energizing electrical equipment. Do not use damaged equipment.
  10. Never remove chemicals, biological samples, or laboratory equipment from a lab without proper authorization.
  11. Presume that all chemicals and biological samples used in the laboratory are hazardous for you and the environment, unless instructed otherwise.
  12. Never leave an experiment unattended unless proper safety precautions are in place.
  13. Read all labels on chemicals twice before using them in the lab. Read all instructions twice for the operation of any equipment or machinery.
  14. Properly and safely dispose of all waste materials.
  15. Treat sharps and broken glassware containers carefully.
    - (a) Broken glass should be disposed of in properly marked safety containers. All sharps (needles, razor blades, etc.) used for any purpose must be disposed of in specially labeled SHARPS containers.
    - (b) Do not place contaminated glass in the broken glassware container. Consult your supervisor.
    - (c) Waste chemicals and contaminated PPE should be discarded as directed.
  16. When using a reagent, replace the lid immediately. Never return unused reagents to stock bottles. Take only the amount needed for your experiment.
  17. All chemicals and biological samples/media are to be disposed of in appropriately labeled containers. Specific instructions for each material will be provided. Pay attention to waste container labels before adding the material to be discarded.
  18. Use good personal hygiene. Keep your hands and face clean. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling any chemical or biological agent.
  19. Keep the work area clean and uncluttered with chemicals and equipment. Clean up the work area on completion of an operation or an experiment. Before leaving the laboratory, you are responsible for making sure your lab area is clean and organized.

20. Never store a chemical or biological specimen in an unlabeled container.
21. Always have your College of Charleston identification and insurance information with you when working in a laboratory. MedicAlert identification must be worn if you have any potential life-threatening chemical sensitivities or medical conditions.
22. Report any accident or injury, however minor, to your teaching assistant, instructor, or lab supervisor immediately. An accident report form must be completed and forwarded to the department chair, dean, and to the Director of Environmental Health and Safety.

**If you have questions/concerns about safety in the lab please first consult your instructor. If these are not answered, please see the department chair. Finally, you may consult the director of Environmental Health and Safety, Randy Beaver at 3-6802 or [beaverr@cofc.edu](mailto:beaverr@cofc.edu)**

## Astronomy Lab Safety Procedures

Welcome to Astronomy 129/130 Lab. Astronomy laboratory is designed to reinforce and enhance the topics you learn in lecture. We invite you to challenge what you have been taught in lecture hands-on. It is only through real-world experiments that astronomy, or any science, can be built.

Since it is impossible to tell weather conditions in advance of lab, it is strongly suggested that you be prepared for both indoor and outdoor labs every lab night. Sometimes conditions may cause your lab instructor to hold both indoor and outdoor activities in one evening.

### **Every lab you should have:**

1. Warm clothes for the wind and lower temperatures on the observing deck.
2. Closed-toe shoes for the observing deck or when working inside with equipment.
3. A calculator,
4. The course lab manual.
5. Your College of Charleston ID and insurance information (including any MedicAlert ID you may have).

### **Some rules for astronomy labs:**

1. Please wash your hands before lab.
2. No smoking, food, or drinks are allowed on the observing deck.
3. All group members must be present when a telescope is being checked in or out.
4. Do not drop objects off the observing deck..
5. Please be nice to the telescopes. They are gentle creatures.
6. Please report any accident or injury, however small, to your teaching assistant, instructor, or lab supervisor immediately.

Failure to comply with these rules can result in expulsion for the evening with a reduced or failing lab grade. Remember: Your instructor and TA are there for you. Leave no puzzlement intact — when in doubt, ask.

# CougarAlert

The College of Charleston has an agreement with the Blackboard Connect Inc. [formerly The NTI Group, Inc. (NU)] to use its Connect-ED communication software to provide an emergency notification system that is capable of reaching students, faculty, staff and parents within minutes of a campus crisis. This system is called CougarAlert.

## Information for Students

The CougarAlert emergency notification system will contact up to six phone numbers for the student. Students may include family member numbers in their address and phone number information.

**All students should log into MyCharleston to review their address and telephone information and update the information as needed.**

To access the address and telephone information, follow these steps:

1. Log on to MyCharleston
2. Click on the Academic Services tab
3. Click on the Banner Self-Service link in the third column
4. Click on the Personal Information link
5. Click on the Update Address and Phones and Cougar Alert link

The CougarAlert system will call the phone numbers in the following order: cell phone with text messaging option, cell phone without text messaging option, residence hall room phone number, mailing phone number, home phone number, parent phone number and parent 2 phone number.

If you do not have one of these numbers in your student record, the system will select the next number on the list. To avoid issues related to timely communication of emergency messages to the proper places, every student should update the contact information in MyCharleston at the beginning of each semester and whenever the numbers change.

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