



Sensitizers

Description

This standard operating procedure outlines the handling and use of sensitizers. Review this document and supply the information required in order to make it specific to your laboratory. In accordance with this document, laboratories should use appropriate controls, personal protective equipment, and disposal techniques when handling sensitizers.

Potential Hazards

A sensitizer (allergen) is a substance that causes exposed people to develop an allergic reaction in normal tissue after repeated contact with the substance. The reaction might be as mild as a rash (contact dermatitis) or as serious as anaphylactic shock. Sensitizers may also be corrosive or carcinogenic.

Examples of compounds that may cause sensitization in some individuals are diazomethane, various isocyanates, formaldehyde, toluene, latex, and benzylic and allylic halides.

Engineering Controls

Use a properly functioning lab fume hood when handling sensitizers that can be inhaled (via mist/fume/gas/vapor). If the process does not permit the handling of such materials in a fume hood, contact Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) at (810) 766-6763 for review of the adequacy of ventilation measures.

Work Practice Controls

For sensitizers that are also considered particularly hazardous substances, a designated area shall be established per the other applicable SOP(s).

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

At minimum, safety glasses, lab coat, long pants, and closed toed shoes are to be worn when entering laboratories having hazardous chemicals.

Additionally, when handling hazardous chemicals or contacting potentially contaminated surfaces, protective gloves are to be worn. For proper selection of glove material, review the SDS or refer to the [glove compatibility charts](#) available through the OSEH website.

For hazardous chemicals that are toxic via skin contact/ absorption, additional protective clothing (i.e., face shield, apron, oversleeves) is appropriate where chemical contact with body/skin is foreseeable.

Goggles (not safety glasses) are appropriate for processes where splash or spray is foreseeable.

Transportation and Storage

Follow any substance-specific storage guidance provided in the SDS documentation.

Waste Disposal

Because most spent, unused and expired chemicals/materials are considered hazardous wastes, they must be properly disposed of. **Do not dispose of chemical wastes by dumping them down a sink, flushing in a toilet or discarding in regular trash containers, unless authorized by UM Flint EHS.** Contact Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) at (810) 766-6763 for waste containers, labels, manifests, waste collection and for any questions regarding proper waste disposal. Also refer to UM-Flint Hazardous Waste Management Program and EHS webpage <http://www.umflint.edu/ehs/environment-health-and-safety> for more information.

Exposures/Unintended Contact



If the employee is in need of emergency medical attention, call 911 immediately.



Be prepared to provide them with a copy of the SDS so that medical personnel are aware of the material(s) involved and take precautions to protect themselves.

Contact EHS for advice on symptoms of chemical exposure, or assistance in performing an exposure assessment.

Report all work related accidents, injuries, illnesses or exposures to UM-Flint DPS. Additionally, employees and supervisors must be sure to report the injury to EHS and complete and submit the [Illness and Injury Report Form](#) to WorkConnections within 24 hours. Follow the directions on the WorkConnections website [Forms Instructions](#) to obtain proper medical treatment and follow-up.

If you were involved in or observed an incident or near miss, please complete the [EHS Laboratory Incident and Near-Miss Report Form](#). This will be valuable in improving laboratory safety on UM-Flint campus.

TREATMENT FACILITIES:

<u>MAJOR INJURIES</u>	<u>MINOR INJURIES –During Business Hours</u>	<u>MINOR INJURIES –After Business Hours</u>
Genesys Hospital One Genesys Parkway Grand Blanc, MI 48439 (810) 606-5710 Hurley Medical Center One Hurley Plaza Flint, MI 48503 (810) 262-9000 McLaren Hospital Flint 401 South Ballenger Hwy Flint, MI 48532 (810) 342-2000	Genesys Occupational Health Network 1460 Center Rd. Burton, MI 48509 (810) 715-4620 Mon. to Fri. 7:30 am to 10 pm Sat. & Sun. Noon to 8 pm McLaren Flint-Burton OCC Center 1459 S. Center Rd. Burton, MI 48509 (810) 496-0900 Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 8 pm Sat & Sun 10 am to 2 pm	Downtown Flint 420 S. Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48502 (810) 762-1550 Genesys East 1096 S. Belsay Rd, Suite F Burton, MI 48509 (810) 743-3351 Genesys North 4154 W. Vienna Rd Clio, MI 48420 (810) 686-7397 Genesys South 8447 N. Holly Rd Grand Blanc, MI 48439 (810) 603-0856 Mon. - Fri. 6 to 10pm / Sat. & Sun. 1-10pm

Click [here](#) for more information on the UM – Flint Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

Spill Procedure

- When a spill occurs, ***personal safety should always come first.***
- Alert and clear everyone in the immediate area where the spill occurred.

For a small spill, inside the fume hood, use proper personal protective equipment as indicated above. Absorb the material with an absorbent, non-combustible material such as sorbent pads, sand or vermiculite. Collect residue, place in container and contact EHS at (810) 766-6763 for proper disposal.

MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- Alert people in the laboratory to evacuate.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources. Don't light Bunsen burners or turn on other switches.
- **Call University of Michigan-Flint Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 911 immediately for assistance.**
- Close doors to affected area.
- Post warnings to keep people from entering the area.
- Have person available that has knowledge of incident and laboratory to assist emergency personnel.

Additional Spill Links:

- www.oseh.umich.edu/pdf/chemspil.pdf
- <http://www.oseh.umich.edu/emer-chemical.shtml>.

Report all emergencies, suspicious activity, injuries, spills, and fires to the UM-Flint Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 911 from any university telephone or (810) 762-3333 from cell phone or non-university telephone. Register with the [University of Michigan-Flint Emergency Alert System](#) via Wolverine Access. Also, preprogram the UM-Flint DPS telephone number (810) 762-3333 into your cell phone for quick, easy use.

Training of Personnel

All personnel are required to complete Laboratory Safety Training. Documentation of the training is required. This training can be accomplished by completing the ***Comprehensive Laboratory Safety*** session (**BLS009** or equivalent) via [MyLINC](#), or UM-Flint EHS on-line training or other equivalent approved by EHS. Furthermore, all personnel shall read and fully adhere to this SOP when handling sensitizers.

Certification

I have read and understand the above SOP. I agree to contact my Supervisor or Lab Manager if I plan to modify this procedure.

Name	Signature	UM ID #	Date

Prior Approval required – Is this procedure hazardous enough to warrant prior approval from the Principal Investigator? YES NO

Principal Investigator _____

Revision Date _____