

Laboratory/Hazardous Material Storage Areas Emergency Preparedness

Tulane University

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Objectives

- Pre-Planning
- Hazardous Material Minimization/Hazard Mitigation
- Equipment
- Power Needs
- Contact Information
- Hurricane Preparation Checklist/Hazard Registration



Pre-Planning Hazardous Material Storage

“Time is of the essence”



- Plan how best to secure lab and protect valuable research equipment, samples, and data
- Plan for dry ice needs before the incident
- Maintain a supply of plastic, waterproof containers to store reactives, research documentation, electronic data, etc.
- Maintain stock of critical supplies



Hazardous Material Minimization

Hazard Mitigation

- Keep hazardous materials to a minimum
- Dispose of hazardous waste and old materials routinely to minimize accumulation
- Secure materials with significant potential hazard (reactive chemicals)
- Secure radioactive isotopes
- Secure gas cylinders



Secure Equipment

- Remove or secure outdoor/rooftop equipment
- If area prone to flooding, elevate or relocate chemicals/equipment
- Move away from windows
- Use plastic, waterproof containers



Refrigerators/Freezers

- Plan for your needs
- Make arrangements with the SOM freezer farm
- Plug into emergency power where available
- Fill dewars and cryogen reservoirs for sample storage



Power Needs

- Plan your power needs
- Identify if backup power is available for your equipment/lab area
- Contact Campus Services to discuss your power options



Contact Information

- Have contact information for TUPD, Campus Services and OEHS available
- Update contact information for your staff
- Ensure your lab door sign contact information is accurate



Hurricane Preparation Checklist

- Complete as part of your Departmental Hurricane Management Plan
- Send to OEHS
- Plan to suspend or postpone experiments when deemed necessary



Hazard Registration

- Hazardous Location Registration
 - Temperature sensitive materials
 - Pyrophorics
 - Water Reactives
 - Unstable Materials
 - Reactive Metals
 - Other concerns for first responders



Summary



- Plan for your needs
- Minimize hazardous materials
- Secure chemicals/equipment
- Plan for power loss/refrigeration needs
- Keep contact information current
- Register your hazardous materials with OEHS





Tulane University

Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS)

<https://risk.tulane.edu/oehs>

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