

# The Safety Net

Eastern Virginia Medical School's Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter  
[https://myportal.evms.edu/research/safety/environmental\\_health\\_and\\_safety](https://myportal.evms.edu/research/safety/environmental_health_and_safety)

Fall 2022  
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## Special Interest Articles:

- 2022 Fire Prevention Week
- Biological Shipping FAQs
- Radioactive Materials Inventory

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## October is National Biosafety Month

October is the 9th Annual Biosafety and Biosecurity Month. Rather than a theme for 2022, we would like to bring Biosafety and Biosecurity Month back to the core components of ethical research, transparency, training, engagement, and stewardship of biosafety and biosecurity. We encourage you to use this month to shine the spotlight on training ideas, stewardship and engagement, how to foster positive relationships with the research community, or supporting responsible and ethical research through our profession.

# Biosafety & Biosecurity Month

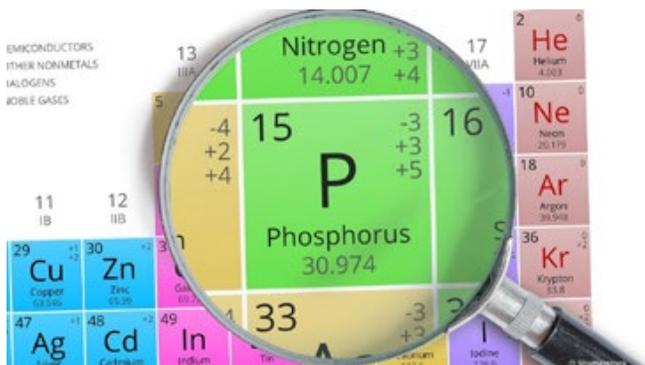
OCTOBER 2022

October is an excellent time to foster an open dialogue with your colleagues, peers, and staff about biosafety and biosecurity. These are some starting points that you can utilize to integrate biosafety and biosecurity into your lab meetings/ discussions/ practice:

- Review high-risk and high consequence procedures in your work environment.
- Discuss the importance of securing pathogens and chemicals that can cause serious harm and take care of identified security issues.
- Review procedures in your lab environment, the engineering controls in place, donning/doffing PPE, and decontamination and disposal procedures.
- Review emergency response plans and SOPs. Conduct drills or exercises to ensure everyone understands the plans

For more information on the 2022 Biosafety and Biosecurity Month, visit the ABSA International website at <https://absa.org/biosafety-biosecurity-month/>.

## Radioactive Materials Inventory



Fall is finally here! Not only does autumn bring cooler weather, shorter evenings, and additional morning traffic—fall is the season for semiannual radioactive material inventory at EVMS. Formal letters and inventory forms will be sent to each Authorized User to be completed and returned to EH&S. The inventory form includes instructions on how to complete the form as well as EVMS's Radioactive Material Inventory policy. In addition, you may use the decay spreadsheet that will be electronically sent to each Authorized User, which will help your data compilation process.

Completion of the inventory form is imperative. The RAM Inventory form must be returned back to EH&S by October 14, 2022. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the EHS office at 446-5798.

## Chemical Inventory

The beginning of the academic year is an opportunity for Principle Investigators (PI) and their colleagues to take a fresh approach in maintaining and updating chemical inventories in BioRAFT/SciShield. You can help EH&S and yourself by taking these measures throughout the year:

- Know which lab(s) and areas within the lab are *your responsibility*
- **Delete chemicals** from the inventory as you use them
- Promptly **add new chemicals** to the list

Please note that making edits to your inventory *should* be happening as you use chemicals on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. We understand that this may not always be possible, but by taking the minimum measures listed above, you are drastically simplifying the work you will need to do at the end of the school year. Remember, the chemical inventory is a requirement and should reflect the current working conditions. A proper ongoing inventory can assist the PI in safety practices such as identifying concerns, minimizing hazards, accident response, analyzing chemical use patterns, and workspace organization. EH&S will send a notification email for the annual inventory update in April 2023. If you have any questions or concerns about your chemical inventory, or comments and ideas about how we can better help you in the process, please email Aaron Decker ([deckerac@evms.edu](mailto:deckerac@evms.edu)). We are here to help ease the process for you and help keep the EVMS community safe.



## 2022 Fire Prevention Week: Fire won't wait. Plan your escape!

October 9 – 15, 2022 is the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week. This year's campaign, "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape™", works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires. Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

Make a home escape plan by doing the following:

1. Draw a floor plan or map of your home. Make sure to show all doors and windows.
2. Visit each room and find two ways out of every one. Make sure all the doors and windows should open easily. Make a path from each exit outside.
3. Evaluate if you have sufficient smoke alarms. Smoke alarms need to be in every bedroom, outside of the sleeping areas (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of your home. Do not put smoke alarms in your kitchen or bathrooms. *Remember* to test the alarms regularly and change the batteries when needed. Fire extinguishers are also a good idea to purchase. You should have at least one on every level of your house.
4. Pick a meeting place outside the home where everyone can meet; then you can account for everyone.
5. Make sure your house number can be easily seen from the street.
6. Know how to call 911 for help.
7. Post your map, talk about your plan, and practice your emergency escape route by having fire drills.

Escape planning and practice can help you efficiently use your time in an emergency. Be a hero by planning ahead! For more information about Fire Prevention week please visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week>.



# Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.™



**FIRE  
PREVENTION  
WEEK™**

[fpw.org](https://fpw.org)

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## Biological Shipping FAQs

Biological specimen shipments and shipments over dry ice are regulated and as such have specific packaging requirements that meet the requirements of the Department of Transportation (DOT) (domestic shipments in the United States), Transportation of Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR), and International Air Transport Association (IATA) (international air shipments worldwide) Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR).

### General Requirements

- All EVMS staff and faculty, packing and shipping Hazard Class 6.1 (toxins), 6.2 (infectious substances) and 9 (miscellaneous, such as dry ice) substances, as well as human and animal source materials, are required to complete Biological Shipping training. This training is offered as a courtesy by EH&S and conducted through both the BioRAFT and Blackboard platforms.
- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations (DGR) classifies Class 6.2 infectious substances into two categories: Biological substance, Category A and Biological substances, Category B:
  - *Biological Substance, Category A:* an infectious substance which in a form that, when exposure to it occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, life-threatening or fatal disease in otherwise healthy humans or animals. The proper shipping names for these substances are: UN2814 (infectious substances, affecting humans) and UN2900 (infectious substances, affecting animals).
  - *Biological Substance, Category B:* An infectious substance which does not meet the criteria for inclusion in Category A. Infectious substances in category B must be assigned to UN3373.
- Packaging materials must be of good quality and strong enough to withstand leakage, shocks, pressure changes, humidity, vibration, and manual or mechanical handling. More specifically, the contents should not leak to the outside of the shipping container, even if there should be leakage of the primary receptacle(s) during transit and the packaging should be resilient enough to withstand rough handling, passage through mechanical sorters, conveyors and other similar equipment.
- All Category B infectious substances require three components (“triple packaging”) for shipment:
  - Leak-proof Primary Receptacles
  - Leak-proof Secondary Packaging
  - Leak-proof Secondary Packaging
  - The minimum required outer container markings and labels include:
    - i. The UN 3373 label with the words “Biological Substances, Category B” next to the diamond.
    - ii. The outer container must also have the name, address and telephone number of the shipper, as well as the name, address and telephone number of the receiver/consignee.
    - iii. Category B shipments DO NOT require an Infectious Substance label, Shipper’s Declaration for Dangerous Goods or emergency response information.



For more information or help with a biological shipping, contact EH&S. We're glad to help!

## Ask the S.O.B.

**Q:** Dear S.O.B.,

I currently have ethanol in a 5-gallon carboy which is hard to maneuver around the lab. I want to pour it into smaller containers so that it is easier to handle. I was wondering if these smaller containers need to be labeled, and if so, what information is needed on the labels?

- Cy Phunoff



*Safety Office Boy to the rescue!*

**A:** Dear Cy,

Yes....you do need to place a label on the container that you pour the ethanol into. The label must at least include a product identifier (e.g. - Ethanol) and any hazards associated with the product (e.g. – flammable, toxic). It should also include the name or initials of the person who put the material into the container as well as the date.

If you have questions or need assistance with the process, please contact EH&S at x5798 or [ehs@evms.edu](mailto:ehs@evms.edu).

## Notes from the Office

### *EH&S Training Courses.*

Course	Date/Time	Location
Chemical Hygiene Plan	October 20, 2022 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM November 17, 2022 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM December 8, 2022 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Lewis Hall 2162
Radiation Safety in the Laboratory	Contact EH&S	
Biosafety in the Laboratory Biological Materials Shipping Autoclave Safety Training OHSP Training Respiratory Protection	Available on BioRAFT!	<a href="https://evms.bioraft.com/">https://evms.bioraft.com/</a>
HAZCOM Bloodborne Pathogens Biological Safety in the Clinical Laboratory	Available on Blackboard!	<a href="https://evms.blackboard.com/">https://evms.blackboard.com/</a>

### *Morgue List*

Looking for a chemical? Check out our [Morgue List](#)! Items on the list are offered and free to all research labs. Phone, come by, or look on the EH&S [Chemical Safety](#) web page to see what chemicals we have available!

