

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS


Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are crucial for conducting research projects safely.

The process of identifying hazards, determining the severity of potential risks and establishing suitable/proper control measures in place are key components to keep the academic community safe.

- [Risk assessments](#) of planned research should be undertaken **before** proceeding with research activities and revised periodically. Especially with any changes of the research experiment, like introducing new chemicals or adding steps to the process, new equipment, change in concentration of already assessed chemical etc.
- [Review Safety Data Sheets \(SDS\)](#), schedule consultation with the EHS staff and discuss the work projects to determine the risks, how to address and control them.
- Take appropriate [safety trainings](#) that address the hazards of concern.
- To minimize risks, the hierarchy of controls is used, done by elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE. Contact EH&S to schedule a consultation.
- For infectious agent work, review the [Biosafety Microbiological & Biomedical Laboratories](#) for the recommended Biosafety Level.



 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EH&S**
Environmental Health & Safety
Irving Medical Center: (212)305-6780
Morningside and Manhattanville: (212)854-8749

