

RADIATION SAFETY NOTES FOR RESEARCHERS AND PERMIT HOLDERS

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Radiation Safety Office: Medical Center G-8842 (ground floor near KRB)
275-3781 (phone)

Responsibilities of permit holders (principal investigators)

1. Use and supervise the use of radioactive materials in accordance with U of R Radiation Safety Manual
2. Maintain accountability of all radioactive materials received by your laboratory
3. Maintain accurate and up-to-date inventory of all radioactive materials in your laboratory
4. Report all incidents to Radiation Safety immediately

Responsibilities of laboratory workers (techs, post-docs, grad students, etc.)

1. Attend radiation safety training prior to working with radioactive materials.
2. Use proper laboratory safety and radiation safety techniques (no eating, smoking, or drinking in lab, wear PPE, establish proper radiological work area, etc.)
3. Notify supervisor and Radiation Safety immediately in the event of a spill, skin or clothing contamination, fire or flooding in a posted lab.
4. Properly log all radioactive material transactions (withdrawal from stock vial, disposal into waste container, transfer to and from other labs, etc.)

Commonly observed violations of U of R radiation safety policies and procedures

1. Failure to document and/or conduct monthly surveys
2. Failure to wear proper PPE
3. Loss of security over radioactive materials (labs left unlocked with stock vials accessible)
4. Eating or drinking in a posted laboratory
5. Failure to promptly report incidents
6. Use of radioactive materials by untrained individuals
7. Use of radioactive materials in an unposted room
8. Failure to label radioactivity-containing equipment (centrifuges, incubator, etc.)

Spill response actions

1. Stop the spill by capping or covering any containers (such as stock vials) and placing absorbent materials over any spilled liquids
2. Warn others, including Radiation Safety, about the spill
3. Isolate area using tape, rope or other barriers to prevent the spread of contamination
4. Minimize exposure by stopping to think about the best way to clean up the spill
5. Stop ventilation that is blowing on the spill, if possible

Actions for skin contamination

1. Notify Radiation Safety (or Security after hours)
2. Survey affected area – record isotope, count, and type of detector
3. Begin decontamination with mild soap, warm water, and gentle scrubbing

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Radioactive waste

1. Radioactive waste disposal is paid for through the permit fee – no additional charges apply unless radioactive mixed waste (hazmat and radioactivity) is generated.
2. No sharps or liquids in the dry waste container
3. Waste will be rejected if such items are found in the dry waste container
4. Call Radiation Safety at x5-3781 for waste pick up

Permitting process

1. Principal investigators who wish to purchase radioactivity must complete a permit application
2. Complete application and submit to Radiation Safety
3. RSO will review application and may contact principal investigator to resolve questions
4. RSO will forward application to Radiation Safety Committee for review and approval
5. Following approval, RSO will schedule an interview with principal investigator
6. Permit will be issued and lab(s) will be posted with appropriate signs
7. Permit holder can order radioactive materials as soon as permit conditions are met
8. Process may take 2 to 6 weeks

Fees

1. Radiation Safety Unit receives no direct funding from U of R. Activities are funded through fees charged to users.
2. Fee structure is reviewed and approved by Radiation Safety Advisory Committee and attempts to be fair to all users

Priorities

1. Human health and safety (including
2. Regulatory compliance
3. Customer service