Effective September 2013

PROCEDURE FOR CHEMICAL SPILLS ON LABORATORY ATTIRE

INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS:

Laboratory coats can be expected to endure some chemical staining during normal use. Students should be advised to wash them regularly to ensure that the laboratory coats are maintained in good condition for optimum personal protection. If a laboratory coat, personal clothing or shoes becomes saturated with a chemical the instructor should take possession of the article of clothing and place it in a container that will not be compromised by the chemical (e.g. plastic bag, bucket or other suitable container that can be sealed). The lab coat or personal clothing item may either be laundered professionally or tagged as hazardous waste for disposal following consultation with Dr. Steve Kucera or your department chair. The student will be provided with a loaner laboratory coat if the student is not injured and can continue working in the lab.

The decision whether to take possession of a chemical contaminated laboratory coat or personal article of clothing from a student involves the professional judgment of the instructor and requires contemplating the quantity and toxicity of the chemical that has been spilled. The key to this decision is toxicity and chemical toxicity varies greatly by each chemical and their inherent properties. Consult the Safety Data Sheet [SDS] for more information about the toxicity of chemicals in your laboratory.

STUDENTS:

If you spill a chemical onto your laboratory coat or personal article of clothing you should remove them immediately and ask your instructor for assistance. If you believe the chemical soaked through the lab coat and reached your skin immediately seek a safety shower and rinse the affected area with water for at least 20 minutes. Remove all contaminated personal articles of clothing and shoes while rinsing under the shower. Your instructor will assist you to ensure your privacy during this incident. Do not hesitate to use a safety shower.