



SAFETY FIRST: NAVIGATING A SAFE LAB ENVIRONMENT - A WARM WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS!

Welcome aboard! We would like to welcome new students joining the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering department and our esteemed research community at the University of Houston. In this edition of the safety newsletter we will cover various topics from the importance of lab safety, key contacts responsible for safety, and future safety training opportunities.

Why lab safety is important

- 1 Protecting yourself and others.** The well-being of you and your fellow researchers is paramount. By following safety protocols, you create an environment where everyone can work confidently, knowing that their health and safety are respected and upheld.
- 2 Enabling focused research.** A safe laboratory environment allows you to concentrate on your experiments and studies without unnecessary distractions or concerns about potential hazards.
- 3 Preparing for the future.** The laboratory is a training ground for your future career, whether in academia, industry, or beyond. Learning and practicing laboratory safety now equips you with invaluable skills that you will carry throughout your professional journey.
- 4 Setting a positive example.** As new PhD students, you are role models for those who will come after you. Demonstrating a strong commitment to laboratory safety sets the standard for a safety culture that benefits the entire research community.



Chemical Engineering Student Safety Team (ChESST)

Mission. We believe that working safely is a holistic attitude that promotes teamwork and innovation. Our mission is to steadily improve the department's safety culture through a three-fold initiative: coordination, collaboration, and education.

Stay tuned for exciting safety events! Get ready for an array of upcoming safety events tailor-made for our new PhD students.

Safety starts with you. Join our team and help us spread awareness and best practices.

Web: <https://chesst.chee.uh.edu/>

Contact: UHChESST@gmail.com

UH Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)

Trainings and consultations. Make sure to receive mandatory trainings from EHS before performing lab experiments. EHS provides consultations for any queries you have regarding experimental procedures.

Waste disposal. Regularly (every 3 months), request waste disposal/pick-up from EHS to minimize accumulation of chemical/biological waste in your lab.

Manuals, policies, and procedures. EHS website supplements various manuals and procedures related to laboratory safety.

Web: <https://www.uh.edu/ehs/>

E-mail: ehs@uh.edu



Grad school is stressful! - Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

The University of Houston's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is here to assist and guide all students in whatever issues they may be facing. We recognize that mental health is something some students have struggled with, and CAPS is a place where students can go for help. [Click here for more information on CAPS and their resources.](#)

In the event of any situations that make you feel unsafe, please share with others via this form: [Near miss/accident reporting](#)
If you have any stories, questions, concerns, or more resources, please share with us at UHChESST@gmail.com