

Why Is Laboratory Emergency Preparedness Important?

Knowing what to do before an emergency occurs can make the difference between life and death or serious injury.

Emergencies can occur at any time

Severe Weather

Thunderstorm and Lightning:

Remain calm.

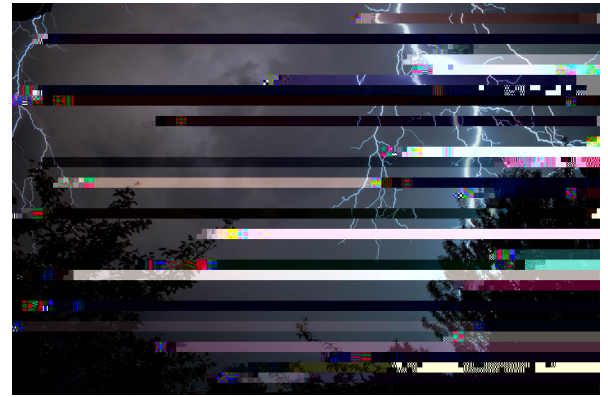
Close window blinds; stay away from windows.

Additionally, for tornadoes:

Move quickly to an interior hallway on the lowest level, an interior stairwell, crouch near the floor or under heavy, well-supported objects and cover your head.

Do not use elevators.

Do not leave the building until instructed to do so.



Floods

Floods caused by domestic or research lab water systems do not normally endanger people directly, but can pose risk of electrical shock if caution is not exercised.

Floods caused by overflow of rivers or backed-up storm sewer systems are dangerous and may require building evacuation.

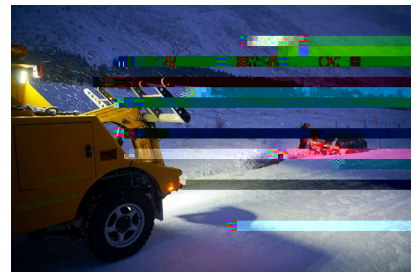
Call DPS at 314-977-3000 to report flooding.

Avoid walking through flooded areas in buildings.

Never drive through a water covered roadway and be alert for rising, swift moving water.



Winter Weather



Extreme winter weather conditions may trigger electrical power outages, in addition to obvious health risks associated with extreme cold temperatures, ice, and snow storms.

Avoid scheduling experiments involving significant hazards if extreme winter weather is imminent.

If rescheduling is not possible, minimize the duration of the experiment.

Be prepared for electrical power outages.

University closures can be checked by calling SLU's Snowline: (314) 977-SNOW (314-977-7669).

Earthquakes

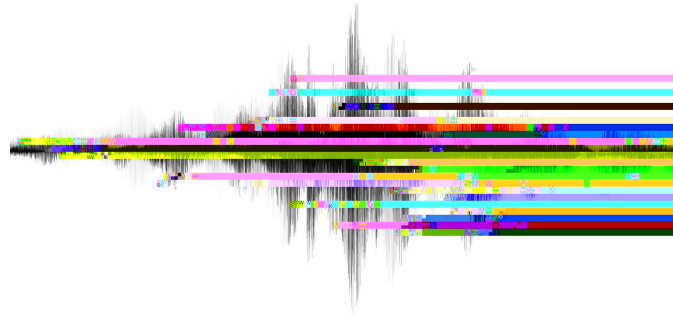
Seek cover under a desk, table or other heavy furniture.

Brace yourself in a doorway in a position that the door will not hit you.

Move against an interior wall, kneel or sit, and cover yourself.

Avoid broken glass, electrical wires, unstable debris or equipment.

Aftershocks may occur, so continue to be alert and prepared to seek cover.



Fire

Stay calm and safely follow an evacuation route upwind from the fire.

Do not use elevators.

Know your emergency evacuation assembly area and wait for the “all clear”.

Fire extinguishers:

Know where they are located throughout the building.



Evacuation Areas & AED Locations - North Campus

Building	Reassembly Area	Nearest AED
Biomedical Engineering	Grassy field at Olive & Theresa	<u>Wool Center</u> , 1st floor across from elevator
Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering (ISE)	Soccer Practice Field	1st floor near mechanical room 1M1 3rd floor near mechanical room 3M1
Lecture Hall	Hermann Stadium	Bottom of the north stairs on right (Northeast wall, L1)
Litteken Hall	Grass area near Olive-Compton garage	<u>Tegeler</u> , 1st floor (Northeast Wall)
Macelwane Hall	Hermann Stadium	Front lobby
McDonnell Douglas Hall	Soccer Practice Field	In lobby right of entrance (Southeast wall)
Monsanto Hall	Hermann Stadium	Main lobby left of entrance (East wall)
Ritter Hall	Grass area on north side of building	<u>ISE</u> , 1st floor & 3rd floor
Shannon Hall	Hermann Stadium	<u>Monsanto</u> , main lobby left of entrance (East Wall)

Evacuation Areas & AED Locations - South Campus

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Utility Outage

Electricity:

Cease activities that involve potentially hazardous conditions.

Evacuate the building immediately.

Do not rely on emergency lighting as a means to continue working.

Plan ahead to use E-power for vital equipment (red outlets).

Contact DPS at 314-977-3000.

Gas Leak:

Stop ALL activities.

Do not turn electrical switches, including lights, on or off.

Do not use the phone inside of the building.

Immediately evacuate the building using the nearest stairwell.

Contact DPS at 314-977-3000 after exiting the building.

Active Shooter

Run: Evacuate if possible

Sharps Injuries

Biohazardous Spills

Notify your supervisor immediately, if available, and DPS if necessary.

Wearing appropriate PPE, cover spill with paper towels or disposable pads.

Pour diluted disinfectant onto paper towels, working from outside the spill to the interior of the spill.

Allow the disinfectant sufficient contact time (in accordance with label claim efficacy statement) to inactivate the material(s). If using a 1:9 concentration of freshly prepared bleach solution, allow for at least a 20-minute contact time.

Chemical Spills

In the event of skin or eye exposure, immediately flush the area with water for 15 minutes.

Evacuate the immediate area of the spill and adjacent areas.

Notify your supervisor and/or other employees in the area.

Contact DPS at (314) 977-3000 to report the spill. Provide DPS with:

- The correct spelling of the chemical name.

- The volume of chemical spilled.

- The exact location of the spill, including building name and room number.

- A phone number at which you can receive a return phone call.

Seek medical attention from Concentra Urgent Care or the SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital Emergency Department, if necessary.

ALL Radioactive Spills - *(See also Major or Minor)*

Full “Emergency Procedures for Radioactive Materials” document may be accessed [here](#).

1. It is important to avoid the spread of contamination.

- a. Do not leave the immediate area.
- b. Immediately notify all persons in the area that you have just had a spill of radioactive material.
- c. Prevent the spread of contamination by limiting the movement of all personnel who may be contaminated.
 - i. Place an absorbent pad or bench paper on the floor near any potentially contaminated persons for them to stand on.
 - ii. If the spill involves significant activity, several sheets of bench paper may be placed on the floor to create a path to allow the person to move several feet away from the spill area without the risk of spreading contamination to other areas of the floor.

Individuals should be notified of the spill and the area should be cordoned off. The spill should be contained and the area decontaminated. The spill should be reported to the appropriate authority.

Radioactive Spills - Major

Definition: A spill of greater than 100 μCi of any radionuclide or involving the floor or contaminated personnel.

3. Notify all persons not involved in the spill to vacate the room.
 - a. Be sure to survey all individuals as they leave the room.
 - b.

Radioactive Spills - Minor



Definition: A spill of 100 μCi or less of any radionuclide confined to a bench top or other laboratory surface, and not involving the floor or contaminated personnel.

- 3. Clean up the spill using disposable gloves and absorbent paper.** Carefully fold the absorbent paper with the clean side out and place in a plastic bag for transfer to a radioactive waste container. Also put contaminated gloves and any other contaminated disposable material in the bag.
- 4. Survey the area with an appropriate radiation detector with a low range survey meter.** Check the area around the spill. Also check your hands, clothing, and shoes for contamination.
- 5. Report the incident to the Radiation Safety Office at (314) 977-8609.** If after hours or on a weekend, contact the Radiation Safety Officer through DPS at (314) 977-3000. This applies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- 6. Document all survey results and cleanup efforts in a written report.** Forward a copy of the written report to the Radiation Safety Officer. Keep a copy of the written report on file with the laboratory Radiation Safety Survey Records.

Summary

Please complete the [Safety Awareness Quiz](#) on Emergency Preparedness by April 30, 2023.

More information about campus emergency preparedness can be found [here](#).