Fact Sheet

OSU ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Safety Instruction

Lab Fume Hood Safety

Please refer to section **303: Local Exhaust Systems** of the **OSU Safety (SAF) Policy & Procedures Manual**.

See also the **OSU Chemical Hygiene Plan**

General

- Laboratory fume hoods are important safety devices.
- Hoods function as local exhaust ventilation that protect personnel from exposure to chemicals being handled
- Training of personnel, proper design of experiments and careful operation of equipment are equally important for lab safety
- Fume hoods cannot overcome poor work practices by users

Good Fume Hood Practices

Operation

- Before using a hood check that the **air is exhausting properly**
- If the hood is not working, notify EH&S, 7-2273
- Keep **sash openings** to a **minimum**
- Hoods are annually checked by EH&S – more frequently on request
- Hood sash should not be positioned higher than the line on the "Approved Use" sticker.
- If there is a need for **safety/blast shields** within the hood, they should be obtained separately; the sash alone should not be used as safety/blast shield.
- Sources of emission should be kept at least **5 inches inside the plane of the sash**
- Users should keep their **faces outside** the plane of the hood sash
- Keep **front air foil** clear – don't block with lab bench liner
- Don't block hood exhaust openings or room air supply vents; they are essential for the proper operation and capture efficiency of the hood
- Keep **hood sashes closed** when not in use
- Design experiments **NOT to exceed the hood's exhaust capacity** with anticipated experimental emissions

Storage

- Keep **storage of chemicals** in a hood to a **minimum**
    - Stored chemicals may add to the seriousness of an incident such as a fire
    - Stored chemicals block exhaust openings
- **Only necessary equipment** should be placed in the hood
- **Large equipment impedes air flow** and causes air turbulence and poor capture efficiency
- Place **large equipment on spacers** to allow for air to pass underneath

Contact EHS:
safety@oregonstate.edu
oregonstate.edu/ehs/
541 • 737 • **2273**