NEW TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ON CAMPUS PROCEDURES
If you transport hazardous research materials outside your lab then these procedures apply to you. Examples of transportation include: moving a cryogen tank for refills, picking up a chemical from a stockroom, transferring lab materials from your lab in one building to another building, and driving materials from your main campus lab to Pickle Research Campus. Information on transporting Hazardous Materials on Campus can be found in a resource document on the EHS website under Resources.

NITRIC ACID INCIDENT
There have been two recent incidents involving expired nitric acid. In one instance, a researcher picked up the plastic bottle of nitric acid from a fume hood when the handle broke off in his hand. The bottle fell to the floor, splashing some acid onto the researcher’s leg. In another incident, the handle fell off the container when the researcher attempted to move the bottle, again resulting in an acid spill. In both cases, the nitric acid containers were past their expiration dates by about two years. Regularly inspect chemical containers and expiration dates. Promptly submit for disposal any chemicals that are past their expiration dates or if the container is in questionable or poor condition. Incident summaries are available on the EHS website under “Lessons Learned.”

INFORMATION AND LAB SAFETY QUESTIONS
INCIDENT REPORTING AND LAB SAFETY QUESTIONS
512-471-3511
EHS-Labstaff@austin.utexas.edu

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING AVAILABLE ONLINE:
Due to COVID safety measures, Fire Prevention Services has developed an online version of their Fire Extinguisher Safety course. For more information see Portable Fire Extinguisher Training on the Fire Prevention Services website.

LASERS
EHS will be visiting labs with Class 3b and 4 lasers more frequently. SOPs are required for all Class 3b and 4 lasers. All laser purchases must be approved by EHS. Commercial vendors who provide services to lasers and laser systems must be registered with the State of Texas Department of State Health Services (TxDSHS). For more information see Laser Safety on the EHS website.

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BLEACH IN EYE
A graduate student was cleaning glassware in the sink using commercial bleach. While washing, a drop splashed into her left eye. She was not wearing safety goggles but a lab coat, gloves, and corrective eyewear. She flushed her eyes 15 minutes in the eyewash. This is a good reminder to have all your basic PPE (lab coat, gloves, safety eyewear) on at all times while in the lab and to regularly flush your eyewashes. Even seemingly innocuous activities can possibly cause harm.

UT HERD AND ELECTRONIC WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEM
EHS is delighted to announce the launch of two new web-based applications. UT Hazard Evaluation and Risk Database (UT HERD) has replaced EHS Assistant. The new database is easier to navigate and has a more user-friendly interface. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) will move the submission of chemical waste requests to an online process and allow users to check on the status of submitted requests. See our webpage for more details. We welcome any feedback.

LAB EQUIPMENT DECONTAMINATION
Before sending lab equipment out for repair, to Surplus, or for disposal, it must be thoroughly decontaminated. Prior to submitting your Lab Equipment Decontamination Form (found on the EHS website):
1. Clean and decontaminate equipment.
2. Complete the Laboratory Equipment Decontamination Form and submit it electronically.
3. Attach a copy of the completed form to the equipment.

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