**Hazardous Materials**

**What is a Hazardous Material?**

A hazardous material is any biological, chemical, or physical material with properties that make it dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment.

**Friendly Reminders**

- Lab staff should ensure that stock chemicals and other hazardous materials are stored properly in order to prevent spills, uncontrolled reactions and minimize worker exposures.
- A chemical inventory consisting of names, storage locations, quantities and hazards should be prepared and maintained in each lab and storage area.

**Storage Guidelines**

*Hazardous Materials storage inside labs should be limited to those chemicals and quantities necessary to complete task requirements.*

**Storage Dos:**

- Segregate according to hazard class & compatibility (i.e. acids from bases; oxidizers from organics/flammables; cyanides from acids)
- Must be labeled in accordance with the OSHA Laboratory Standard.
- Toxic chemicals must be stored separately from all other chemicals & in closed cabinets. Cabinets must be labeled “Toxic Chemicals” or with similar warnings.
- Use secondary containment, such as acid carriers, when transporting liquid chemicals more than a very short distance.
- Flammable & combustible materials must be stored in accordance with NFPA 45 & NFPA 30
- Must be closed when not in use.
- Must be maintained per manufacturer requirements.

**Storage Don’ts:**

- Hazardous Materials must not be stored:
  - On Floors
  - Under Sinks
  - In Chemical Fume Hoods
  - On Benches without lips or restraining devise
  - Above Eye Level

**Other Resources**

- Please visit the Lab Safety section of the RS website for more information.