

# The Facts



OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

## Easy Solutions for Common Lab & Shop Safety Issues

### 1. Personnel who have not completed the safety training.

All university employees and students must complete the safety training required by [Occupational and Environmental Safety \(OES\)](#) when they start to work in the lab or workshop.

Visit Clemson's SciShield website at [SciShield Training Directory](#) to complete your training.

### 2. Flammables are not allowed to be stored in a conventional refrigerator.

A flammable liquid is defined by OSHA as "any liquid having a flash point at or below 199.4°F (93°C)". Flammable liquids include common alcohols such as Ethanol or Isopropyl Alcohol. Flammable materials must be stored in approved refrigerators. Cold rooms are not appropriate for storage of flammable materials.

For long term storage, an approved refrigerator or freezer is required. In several departments there are already communal flammable fridges and freezers. For assistance contact [OES](#) if you have questions about the flammables storage and locations of communal storage.

### 3. Lab doors should remain closed.

Having enclosed laboratories will keep unauthorized personnel from entering areas where hazardous operations are performed and will contain contaminants and spillages. The noise from some workshops or laboratories can interfere with other workers. Some laboratories are designed to have a negative pressure relative to the corridor outside. The closed door will help the ventilation system and fans work as designed to limit chemical exposures and to minimize energy cost.

Keep laboratory doors closed at all times.

### 4. Do not consume food or drinks in labs or shops where hazardous materials are present.

The [OSHA Lab Standard](#) and [Clemson University Chemical Hygiene Plan](#) prohibit eating/drinking in areas where hazardous chemicals are in use. The individual risk is the ingestion of hazardous materials and noncompliance with the regulations.



### 5. Keep paths to exit clear.

Exit Routes must be free and unobstructed according to [OSHA standard CFR 1910.36; 1910.37](#). The paths are used for personnel escaping from the workplace during an emergency.

Keep equipment, furniture, high hazard materials and other objects free of the

