Lab Safety Training Fall 2020

Guide to Assist Researchers

EHS would like to ensure that training requirements for lab personal are clear, as well as address any questions or concerns around accomplishing training under the conditions created by the current pandemic. We will illustrate the health, safety, and compliance learning landscape, share a basic laboratory safety training matrix, describe how we can perform invited presentations, and some advice on site-specific training.

Health, Safety, and Compliance Learning Landscape

Training Matrix and Sources

See the attached table for a guide to core courses and requirements. You can visit https://ehs.utk.edu/index.php/laboratory-safety/lab-safety-training/ for updates.

Invited Presentations

Several departments customarily invite EHS to deliver orientation, training, or refresher presentations. Some confusion has occurred as to whether these events qualified as General Lab Safety Training, Biosafety Training, or Radiation Safety Training. Unless specified, they are not. EHS can offer presentations, but will opt for online experiences where possible.

To request an event please contact EHS. If an in-person meeting is requested the approval of the EHS Director may be required. All campus policies must be assured for such events as any other classroom experience.

Site-Specific Training

Site-specific training is important and often required. Although we may be limiting contact, it is important that Principal Investigators complete site specific checklists and SOP reviews with their research teams, while observing any requirements of the Office of Research guidance and updates https://research.utk.edu/tag/vcr-update/.

It is important to maintain the quality of site specific training. Train with methods that serve the training need. If a researcher needs to learn a skill and demonstrate proficiency, ensure that the training is completed with appropriate demonstrations and hands-on activities or appropriate simulations. Providing information or knowledge in place of hands-on activities only because of COVID considerations may be inappropriate. This is a time to demonstrate and share creative solutions to challenges that still serve training and learning needs.