

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 Courses	Site Specific Training	Refresher Training	Invited Presentations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many core courses are required by policy, regulation, or state license agreement.• Core courses are offered by EHS; Electives can be offered by various means.• Can be a means of training your staff on a particular topic, such as compressed gases.• Records can be required and evaluated during an inspection.• Many available on Canvas or through Qualtrics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often performed by Principal Investigators or their designees.• Some EHS programs provide site-specific checklists.• Other site-specific training may be associated with plans such as your lab's standard operating procedures in your chemical hygiene plan (CHP) or a Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan (ECP).• It could also be based on manufacturer requirements of a piece of equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See matrix requirements.• Not all programs require refreshers, such as General Lab Safety, however UTK advises three-year refreshers where no requirement exists.• Refreshers are usually based on a regulatory requirement such as the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, or Hazardous Waste Standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These are usually not initial training events unless specified as a particular course by EHS.• Orientation events for new department members.• Refresher events for new and existing department members.• Should not be formally <i>required</i> unless an alternative means to achieve completion is assured for absentees.• EHS does not require these events, but a department may choose to.

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.