

CSHEMA Laboratory Safety Awareness Week

The Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA), a higher education focused EHS organization, is preparing for their annual Laboratory Safety Awareness Week from February 9th through the 13th. This initiative brings laboratory safety to the forefront of our focus and provides researchers with resources, discussions, and a proactive opportunity to evaluate individual lab spaces to ensure that working conditions are maintained safely.

Whether you work in a chemical laboratory, biological laboratory, Makerspace, or workshop, CSHEMA has published a variety of resources that can benefit lab workers in maintaining a safe working environment. Contributors and members of CSHEMA are safety professionals who focus on topics related to safety in academia and higher learning institutions, which makes their publications especially relevant to activities on campus. Readers can [follow this link](#) to access the full list of free resources that CSHEMA has made available ahead of Laboratory Safety and Awareness week. Each topic category contains posters in a variety of formats that highlight key safety considerations in each area. Researchers can participate in Lab Safety Awareness Week by posting updated safety signs in labs, reading up on incident analyses, evaluating their own lab space to address safety concerns, and discussing safety in their research group meetings. Readers that are interested in additional CSHEMA member-only resources, including a variety of posters and templates, are encouraged to reach out to EOHS for access. Any concerns involving laboratory safety topics can be sent to asm97@uakron.edu for further discussion.



Smart Science, Safe Science: Make Safety Your Lab Habit!

ACS Chemical Health and Safety Journal is Now Open Access



Initially announced on January 1, 2026, the American Chemical Society's *Chemical Health and Safety* journal is moving to [Diamond Open Access](#), making all articles entirely free to read and publish (funded by ACS). *CH&S* contains a wide variety of chemical safety research articles as well as frequent case studies that reinforce the importance of best practices to mitigate chemical hazards in both industrial and academic research settings. Collectively, the *CH&S* catalog contains one of the largest inventories of chemical incident and accident analysis reports, many of which will be beneficial to researchers on our campus. Interested readers can [follow this link](#) to an editorial piece by the journal editor, Mary Beth Mulcahy, which includes several high-profile case studies and "lessons learned" articles based on a variety of common laboratory hazards.

Setting Sights on SciShield Inventories and Contact Information

SciShield is an essential tool that enables research groups to track chemical inventories (including time-sensitive chemicals), manage their laboratory spaces, and produce door signs with vital contact information. This research tool enables compliance with several hazard communication and inventory requirements that are needed for emergency responders and building code regulations. Research groups that have out-of-date chemical inventories or that lack door signs are subject to unannounced drop-in laboratory inspections. Contact asm97@uakron.edu or mad151@uakron.edu for SciShield assistance.



SciShield

EPA Trichloroethylene (TCE) Rule Updates

The EPA has published a prohibition on the use of TCE for a variety of uses, including distribution in commerce and industrial/commercial uses. If you cannot eliminate TCE from your laboratory procedures, **contact EOHS immediately**. The compliance deadline for WCPP implementation is February 17, 2026. [Link to EPA compliance guide](#)

Laboratory Waste Pickup Form

Are your laboratory waste containers getting full? Be sure to submit a [Waste Pickup Request](#) and have them replaced! EOHS will remove the full waste containers and replace them accordingly with empty flammable or aqueous 5-gallon drums. Contact Dr. Mike DeBord (mad151@uakron.edu) with specific waste questions.