



Laboratory and Research Safety Initiative 2017 Annual Review



CY 2017 Activities & Accomplishments

Leadership Commitment

- Laboratory and Research Safety Committee (LRSC) representatives presented an update on the research safety initiative to the Research Associate Deans (RADs). The presentation re-emphasized the safety initiative and focused on their contributions to planning, engagement within their respective local structures, and commitment to shared campus goals.
- An update on the research safety initiative was presented to the Academic Program Group (APG) group comprised of Deans and Executive Officers. This also included confirmation from leadership of their commitment to strengthen the culture of safety.
- An e-mail was sent to all U-M faculty, staff, and students to announce the brand of "**Research Smart**," a new phase of the Laboratory and Research Safety Initiative aimed at communicating the safety and quality of U-M research. An accompanying article was also published in the University Record.

Committee Development

- Safety committees representing 15 schools, colleges and units across the U-M campus confirmed their scope and upcoming priorities, provided an updated roster, created an email group and identified their safety coordinators. Many units needed to establish a structure and all units were asked to operationalize their activity for the upcoming year.
- The LRSC Charge was updated to clarify that oversight responsibility includes academic and research activities on the Ann Arbor campus. LRSC representation was reorganized to be comprehensive in scope of research and academic units.

Visibility

- Research Smart web pages were created on the U-M Office of Research site to support the branding of the initiative and to provide online resources and communication tools.
- Community outreach efforts involved 5 sessions of "Coffee & Conversation" which is an informal event designed for EHS to interact, engage, and clarify resources and services for research staff, faculty, and trainees. EHS also participated in Researchpalooza and the NCRC Expo to promote EHS and the Research Smart Initiative.
- The 2016 Safety Culture Survey report was published.

Education

- Safety Coordinators attended one of two orientation sessions (Safety Coordinator Bootcamp). The sessions were conducted to clarify roles and responsibilities as articulated in the U-M Academic and Research Safety Policy and to empower safety coordinators to engage with their departments and unit safety committees.
- Internal training sessions with EHS inspectors were established to enhance the customer service experience by providing ongoing opportunities to learn about perspectives unique to the research community and local priorities.



RESEARCH SMART

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Key Goals for 2018

- Completion of two remaining items from 2014 Laboratory Safety Audit.

Laboratory and Research Safety Committee (LRSC)

- Establish a comprehensive communication plan that is effective in sharing lessons learned, best practices, and resource awareness.
- Develop additional opportunities to partner with local units and assist with their priorities (e.g. pilot program for barriers to designate desk areas as non-safety glass required zones).
- Host ongoing Safety Committee Summits and informational sessions to provide networking opportunities for safety committee members across campus for discussing challenges, successes, and goal-setting.
- Develop and implement a policy and process to involve unit safety committees and the LRSC in escalated resolution of research safety non-compliance that has not been resolved through the normal EHS process.
- Develop a comprehensive training system to increase safety compliance and knowledge of roles and responsibilities across all levels, from Deans to Trainees, participating in research operations.
- Launch the 2nd Laboratory and Research Safety Survey in Fall of 2018 to assess awareness, local communication, and goals related to the campus culture of laboratory and research safety.
- Empower the unit safety committees with further resource awareness and programming that includes their own internal community of safety coordinators, research staff, and trainees.

Environment, Health & Safety

- Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP) language modification regarding safety glasses usage and barrier protection.
- Implementation of the MI Safety Portal system for inspections to provide principal investigators/supervisors access to their findings and direct ability to enter corrective action into the system for better reporting. This system will also provide opportunities for more robust data and trend analysis.