



Fundamentals of Laboratory Safety

Introduction to Laboratory Safety

Laboratory incidents occur across the United States each year. These incidents include spills, needle sticks, lab acquired infections, chemical explosions, and severe incidents resulting in fatalities.

Incidents are most likely to occur when laboratory staff members fail to adhere to established safe practices. Laboratory safety is not a singular objective that is considered accomplished and completed.

Rather, it is an ongoing commitment to the functioning culture of safety that demands constant dedication and continual improvement. We must work safely to protect each other, the public and the environment.

Our shared responsibility is to ensure that safety issues are immediately identified and addressed. Everyone's safety is dependent on your commitment to a strong safety culture basing your work on sound risk assessments, utilizing safe work practices and equipment and constantly looking for safer ways to do your work, protect your workers and our neighbors from the hazards that we encounter in our laboratories every day.

Link to video job aid [Fundamentals of Laboratory Safety - Introduction to Laboratory Safety | OneLab REACH \(cdc.gov\)](#)