

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

1. It is the policy of this department to enforce all safety regulations with the Photo lab. Students who fail to follow these regulations will be denied access to the lab for any "open lab" for the remainder of the semester.
2. Review and follow the policies and procedures outlined in this manual.
3. After reviewing this manual, discuss all questions and concerns with your instructor.
4. After discussion of any and all questions and concerns, please sign the attached consent for and submit it to your instructor. Keep your signed copy with you.

Photography

The hazards associated with photography relate to the chemicals used in the photographic process, some of which can cause severe skin and respiratory reactions in sensitized individuals. We try to choose products that contain less toxic compounds when possible. Carefully review the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the products you will use and identify the hazardous materials involved in your work.

Activity Material Potential Hazard

Photography Photochemicals

The organic and inorganic chemicals found in black-and-white and color photographic processing solutions can adversely affect the skin and respiratory systems after direct skin contact or inhalation. Organic amines found in developer solutions can cause allergic contact dermatitis. Some individuals become severely sensitized to these chemicals and can no longer work in darkrooms. Acidic solutions (found in stop baths) and bleaches are skin irritants and cause skin rashes. Many of the chemicals in photo processing solutions are highly toxic if ingested. Photo processing working solutions emit a variety of respiratory irritants including acetic acid, formaldehyde, hydrogen sulfide, and sulfur dioxide. Exposure to these irritants can cause increased susceptibility to respiratory infections. Long-term exposure to high concentrations can cause acute and chronic bronchitis. Some photographic chemicals, typically associated with bleaches and toners, may be extremely toxic and include cyanide, chrome, lead, and mercury compounds. Highly irritating and toxic substances can become airborne if stock or working solutions are mixed with incompatible materials, such as mixing stop bath solutions with fixer, toner, or any bleaching solutions. Photo chemicals can cause severe burns to the eyes.

Photography Precautions for Your Students

- Make sure that the ventilation system is turned on when in the darkroom.
- Wear gloves, chemical splash goggles, and an apron when mixing working solutions and pouring them into trays or other equipment. If highly toxic compounds are involved, do it under local exhaust ventilation. Use premixed chemicals instead of dry chemicals if possible.
- Wherever possible, substitute less-toxic alternatives for highly toxic photochemical developers, toners, and bleaches. Consult the product's MSDS.

- Never put your bare hands in working solutions (particularly developer solution, which may contain a strong sensitizer). Use tongs instead. If you come in contact with any solutions, wash the affected area immediately with soap (acidic cleanser such as pHisoderm) and water. When finished working or when leaving the darkroom, wash your hands thoroughly.
- Wear a full-length smock or coveralls in the darkroom and do not wear them outside the darkroom. Wash them frequently and separately from other clothing.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke in the darkroom.
- Store concentrated photo chemicals (particularly stop baths) on low shelves where they will not spill and splash your face or eyes. Store photo chemicals in original or polypropylene containers—never glass.
- Cover working solutions when not in use.
- Clean up any spills immediately. Keep the work area uncluttered.
- To prevent the release of toxic gases, never mix stop bath solutions directly with fixer, toner, or any bleaching solutions.

GENERAL LABORATORY RULES

GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. Report any missing or malfunctioning equipment or supplies immediately.
2. NO SMOKING, EATING OR DRINKING.
3. Your work area must be spotless when you leave. If you see a potential mess, or danger (i.e. wet spot on the floor), it is your responsibility to clean not only your area, but that area as well.
4. Report all incidents and accidents to the department no matter how trivial or insignificant. This includes shocks, spills, and all other forms of injury.

PERSONAL SAFETY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Personal protective equipment must be worn when mixing photographic chemistry.

EMERGENCY EYE CARE PROCEDURE

1. Wash eyes immediately with a continuous stream of lukewarm water.
2. Cover the eye(s) with cloth or bandage material to reduce eye movement.
3. Call Public Safety immediately or have someone call them for you.

PROCEDURE IN CASE OF FIRE

1. SOUND THE ALARM TO GET HELP AND TO INITIATE EVACUATION

** This is essential because a small fire can rapidly become a conflagration.

If you try to fight a fire first, you will only delay control and may cost lives.**

2. EVACUATE yourself and all others from the area and/or building.

Local Emergency Response: 911
University Public Safety EMERGENCY: x5511
University Public Safety NON-EMERGENCY: x4100