



## Oxidizing Chemicals

### Description

*This standard operating procedure outlines the handling and use of oxidizing chemicals. Review this document and supply the information required in order to make it specific to your laboratory. In accordance with this document, laboratories should use appropriate controls, personal protective equipment, and disposal techniques when handling oxidizing chemicals.*

Oxidizing chemicals are materials that spontaneously evolve oxygen at room temperature or with slight heat. Oxidizing chemicals also promote combustion. Strong oxidizers are capable of forming explosive mixtures when mixed with combustible, organic, or easily oxidized materials.

### Potential Hazards

- Oxidizers are agents that initiate or promote combustion in other materials, generally through the release of oxygen.
- **Check the safety data sheet (SDS) to determine if a material is an oxidizer and to identify other hazards.**

### Engineering Controls

Work with strong oxidizing agents should be conducted in a fume hood. Sash height should be kept low to avoid release of fumes and provide a physical barrier.

### Work Practice Controls

- Minimize the quantities of oxidizers on hand.
- Exercise caution when mixing oxidizing agents with flammable or combustible materials for research. Use small amounts to reduce generation of heat and control the reaction.
- Evacuated glassware can implode and eject flying glass, and splattered chemicals. Vacuum work involving oxidizing chemicals must be conducted in a fume hood, glove box, or isolated in an acceptable manner.
- Mechanical vacuum pumps must be protected using cold traps and, where appropriate, filtered to prevent particulate release. The exhaust for the pumps must be vented into an exhaust hood.

### Personal Protective Equipment

Eye protection in the form of safety glasses must be worn at all times when handling oxidizing chemicals. Ordinary (street) prescription glasses do not provide adequate protection. Adequate safety glasses must meet the requirements of ANSI Z.87. 1 and must be equipped with side shields. Safety glasses with side shields do not provide adequate protection from splashes; therefore, when the potential for splash hazard exists, other eye protection and/or face protection must be worn.

Gloves should be worn when handling oxidizing chemicals. Disposable nitrile gloves provide adequate protection against accidental hand contact with small quantities of most laboratory chemicals. Lab coats, closed toe shoes and long

sleeved clothing must be worn when handling oxidizing chemicals. Additional protective clothing should be worn if the possibility of skin contact is likely.

Safety shielding is required any time there is a risk of explosion, splash hazard, or a highly exothermic reaction. All manipulations of oxidizing chemicals which pose this risk should occur in a fume hood with the sash in the lowest feasible position. Portable shields, which provide protection to all laboratory occupants, are acceptable.

### Transportation and Storage

- Store away from flammable and combustible materials in a cool, dry location.
- Do not store on wooden shelves or in wooden cabinets.
- Do not use corks or rubber stoppers.

### Waste Disposal

Because most spent, unused and expired chemicals/materials are considered hazardous wastes, they must be properly disposed of. ***Do not dispose of chemical wastes by dumping them down a sink, flushing in a toilet or discarding in regular trash containers.*** Contact EHS at (313) 593-0921 for waste containers, labels, manifests, waste collection and for any questions regarding proper waste disposal. Also, refer to EHS's [Hazardous Waste Webpage](#) for more information.

Handle and store corrosive wastes following the guidelines above while accumulating wastes and awaiting chemical waste pickup. Contact EHS to schedule a waste pickup.

### Exposures/Unintended Contact



***If the employee is in need of emergency medical attention, call 911 immediately.***



For an actual chemical exposure/injury,

- Flush exposed eyes or skin with water for at least 15 minutes, then seek medical attention (see below).
- Check SDS for chemical-specific exposure treatment and first-aid activities.

Report all work related accidents, injuries, illnesses or exposures to WorkConnections within 24 hours by completing and submitting the [Illness and Injury Report Form](#). Follow the directions on the WorkConnections website [Forms Instructions](#) to obtain proper medical treatment and follow-up.

Complete the [EHS Laboratory Incident and Near-Miss Report](#) form.

#### **TREATMENT FACILITIES:**

**Midwest Medical Center -- *Campus Employees (including student employees)***

Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

**9301 Middlebelt Road**

Romulus, MI 48174

Phone: 734-941-1000

After hours - go to:

**Midwest Medical Center**

Open 24/7  
4700 Schaefer  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
Phone: 313-581-2600

**Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane -- *University students (non-life threatening conditions)***

19401 Hubbard Drive  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
Phone: 313-928-8278

Click [here](#) for more information.

**Spill Procedure**

Anticipate spills by having the appropriate clean up equipment on hand. The appropriate clean up supplies can be determined by consulting the SDS. This should occur prior to the use of any oxidizing chemicals. Spill control materials for oxidizers are designed to be inert and will not react with the reagent. Never use paper towels or other inappropriate materials which are combustible. The waste materials generated during spill cleanup may pose a flammability risk and should not remain in the laboratory overnight unless it is stored in an appropriate container.

In the event of a spill, alert personnel in the area that a spill has occurred. Do not attempt to handle a large spill of oxidizing chemicals. Vacate the laboratory immediately and call Public Safety at (313) 593-5333 or 911 from a campus phone for assistance.

Remain on the scene, but at a safe distance, to receive and direct safety personnel when they arrive.

A **minor (small) chemical spill** is one that the laboratory staff is capable of handling safely without the assistance of safety and emergency personnel, i.e., less than 1 Gallon or 3.5 Liters. A **major/large chemical spill** requires active assistance from emergency personnel.

**Spill Response Steps:****MINOR CHEMICAL SPILL**

- Alert people in immediate area of spill.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources. Don't light Bunsen burners or turn on other switches.
- Open outside windows, if possible.
- Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves and long-sleeve lab coat.
- Avoid breathing vapors from spill.
- Confine spill to as small an area as possible.
- **Do not wash spill down the drain.**
- Use appropriate spill kits/sorbents to neutralize corrosives and/or absorb spill. Collect contaminated materials and residues and place in container. For powdered chemicals sweep carefully to avoid generation of dust or, if appropriate, use moist sorbent pads or wet the powder with a suitable solvent and then wipe with a dry cloth. Contact EHS at (313) 593-0921 for proper disposal.
- Clean spill area with water.

## MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- Alert people in the laboratory to evacuate.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources. Don't light Bunsen burners or turn on other switches.
- **Call Public Safety at (313) 593-5333 or 911 from a campus phone immediately for assistance.**
- Close doors to affected area.
- Post warnings to keep people from entering the area.
- Have person available that has knowledge of incident and laboratory to assist emergency personnel.

### **Additional Spill Links:**

- [Chemical Spill Control Information](#)

Report all emergencies, suspicious activity, injuries, spills, and fires to Public Safety by calling at (313) 593-5333 or 911 from a campus phone. Register with the University of Michigan-Dearborn [Emergency Alert System](#).

### **Training of personnel**

All personnel are required to complete the *Comprehensive Laboratory Safety* session (BLS009 or equivalent) via [MyLINC](#). Furthermore, all personnel shall read and fully adhere to this SOP when handling oxidizing chemicals.

### **Certification**

I have read and understand the above SOP. I agree to contact my Supervisor or Lab manager if I plan to modify this procedure.

Name	Signature	UM ID #	Date

**Prior Approval required – Is this procedure hazardous enough to warrant prior approval from the Principal Investigator?**      ☐ YES      ☐ NO

Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date \_\_\_\_\_