



SAFETY NOTICE

Risk Assessment

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

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Category: CHP - Laboratory Risk Assessments
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Risk Assessment Tool Available for Laboratories

Protecting personnel and research is important, but how can you know if you are taking all of the necessary steps to safely conduct experiments? Part of managing safety in laboratories is controlling risks. This is accomplished by first identifying what might cause harm to people and decide whether the appropriate steps are in place to prevent harm. A risk assessment is not about creating more paperwork, but rather about identifying sensible measures to control the risks.

Not all risk can be eliminated, but through informed risk assessment and careful risk management, laboratory safety is greatly enhanced. Risk assessment is the process that:

- Identifies and creates awareness of hazards and risks. The assessment can also be used as a training tool.
- Determines if existing control measures are adequate or if more should be done.
- Prevents injuries or illnesses when done at the design or planning stage of a task.
- Prioritizes hazards and control measures ultimately preventing incidents.



These steps may already have been taken in your lab, but a documented risk assessment will help confirm if all controls are in place. To assist in the process, a new [Risk Assessment tool](#) has been developed.

It is recommended that a risk assessment be completed for processes where:

- Extremely hazardous materials or operations are used or desired to be used or
- Use of hazardous gases (flammable, oxidizers, toxics) or
- The experimental process contains unique hazards such as pressurized vessels, exposed live electrical conductors greater than 50 volts, extreme temperatures (localized or environmental), etc.

Completed assessments should be stored in your laboratory and accessible to personnel working on the task that was evaluated.

Guidance for completing the Assessment is available at the following link - [Risk Assessment Instructions](#). If you need assistance when completing the form please contact RMS at 631-5037.