

Instructions for Handling Liquid Nitrogen

- A. Before dispensing N_2 , the hallway door should be propped open to allow **adequate ventilation**.
- B. **Do NOT** transport N_2 in **elevators**. If spilled, expansion of N_2 in enclosed spaces can result in **asphyxiation death**.
- C. Open the valve just enough to allow liquid N_2 to flow. **Do NOT fully open the valve** because it freezes the valve open and leaks liquid N_2 that can damage the floor.
- D. Only transport N_2 in an **appropriate container**:
 - a. Only use metal/plastic dewars, or other insulated containers.
 - b. All containers must have a **loose-fitting lid** to prevent both spills and pressure build up.
 - c. **Styrofoam is NOT appropriate**. It is embrittled by cold and breaks easily during transport.
- E. Always use appropriate **PPE** when dispensing N_2 :
 - a. Safety glasses, goggles or a face shield to **protect eyes**. Regular glasses do not shield from splash or vapors.
 - b. **Dry, insulated cryogenic gloves**. Nitrile or latex lab gloves do not provide adequate protection.
 - c. Lab coats and/or clothing that **entirely covers the skin**. Open toed-footwear is not allowed.
- F. Take steps to mitigate contact with N_2 while dispensing :
 - a. Never put any body part or face near the end of the supply hose or container while dispensing.
 - b. Never touch uninsulated metal in contact with N_2 , it may freeze to your skin.
- G. Please use the tank with the IN-USE tag first. Please update the tag if the tank is going from new to In-Use or is empty (Full, In Use & Empty).
- H. Reporting issues with liquid nitrogen:
 - a. During business hours: IIGBadmin@ucr.edu / 951-827-2601 / visit admin office in 1206 Genomics
 - b. After hours: UCR Physical Plant 951-827-467
EHS Main Line (951) 827-5528