

Lab Safety Contact Meeting



Agenda

- Risk and Safety Solutions (RSS) updates – April
- Hazardous Waste updates - Patrick
- PPE updates – Pam
- Training course updates - Patrick

Hazardous Waste Updates

Waste Segregation in Research Labs

UCR EH&S Hazardous Materials

Clean trash vs. contaminated waste — and how to handle broken glass

Purpose:

Ensure hazardous and contaminated laboratory waste is captured in the correct container at the point of disposal and does not leave the lab as regular trash.



Why segregation matters

The poster rollout is a safety control and an operational control.

1

Protects people

Reduces unnecessary handling of contaminated materials and sharp/debris risks.

2

Keeps compliance clean

Supports proper labeling, accumulation, and hazardous-waste determinations.

3

Controls cost

Clean trash in hazardous waste increases disposal volume and vendor costs.

4

Improves service

Clear bins and signage help labs make the right decision without delay.

Two bins. Two different waste streams.

Posters should be placed directly above or near the relevant container.

REGULAR TRASH ONLY

**REGULAR
TRASH
ONLY**

What goes in the bin?



**No Lab Waste or Contaminated
Waste allowed in this bin**

*No food or drinks
allowed in laboratories*



Clean gloves and routine trash only. No contaminated lab waste.

LABORATORY WASTE ONLY

**LABORATORY
WASTE
ONLY**

What goes in the bin?

- Contaminated gloves
- Contaminated laboratory debris
- Kim wipes
- Plastic pipettes
- Solids only

**Make sure the bin has a
Hazardous Waste label!**

*No food or drinks
allowed in laboratories*



Contaminated gloves, Kim wipes, plastic pipettes, lab debris; solids only.

Simple decision rule for lab users

A quick question before anything goes into the bin prevents most mistakes.

Was it used with, exposed to, or reasonably suspected to contain a hazardous chemical?



NO / CLEAN

Regular trash bin

Clean gloves, paper, and general trash.



YES / UNSURE

Hazardous waste bin

Contaminated gloves, wipes, pipettes, and lab debris.
Label the container.

When in doubt, route it as contaminated waste and contact EH&S for guidance.

What belongs in the lab-waste bin?

These step bins (white) are intended for solid contaminated laboratory waste only.



Place in the bin

- Contaminated gloves
- Kim wipes and contaminated wipes
- Plastic pipettes and small contaminated lab debris
- Solids only — no liquids, food, or drinks

Reminder: the bin must have a hazardous-waste label.

Broken glass: contaminated vs. non-contaminated

The default for uncertainty is the contaminated-glass container.

Broken Glass Trash

Keep Your Lab Safe - Pick the right bin every time!

Contaminated Glass

What goes inside this bucket?



- Contaminated glass (Chemical)
- Empty contaminated vials
- Empty product containers

Label contaminated waste containers

Clean Broken Glass

What goes inside this box?



- Only clean glass
- No vials
- No empty product containers

Remember: No Food or Drinks allowed in the lab!

Contaminated glass bucket

Chemical-contaminated glass, empty contaminated vials, and empty product containers.

Clean broken-glass box

Only clean glass. No vials and no empty product containers.

If unsure, dispose into contaminated glass.

Labs ask: make the decision visible at the point of disposal

1

Post

Place the correct poster above the correct bin or container.

2

Pair

Pair hazardous-waste labels with lab-waste bins and contaminated-glass buckets.

3

Pause

Ask the decision-rule question: clean, contaminated, or unsure?

4

Report

Share confusing waste streams or repeated mistakes with EH&S HazMat.

EH&S HazMat can help validate container placement, labels, and waste-stream questions before problems become repeat issues.

PPE Program Updates

PPE Returns (WHY)

- ◇ PPE distributed by EH&S if paid for and property of EH&S
- ◇ Need returns to continue to support the Program
 - ◇ PPE costs keep increasing
 - ◇ Student enrollment keeps increasing
 - ◇ Rely on returns to fill in the gaps purchasing cannot fill

PPE Returns (WHY) cont'd

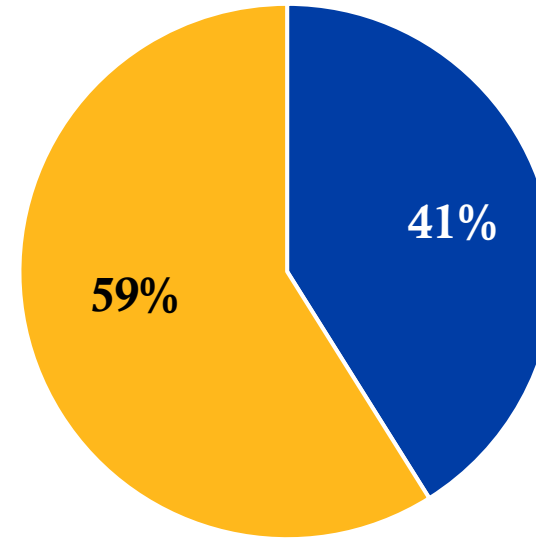
- ◆ PPE should not be discarded
 - ◆ Contaminated and/or damaged PPE should be returned to EH&S for decontamination and disposal
 - ◆ Returning PPE to EH&S allows it to be removed from user's account and for replacements to be made
- ◆ PPE should not be brought home
 - ◆ PPE is not a souvenir
 - ◆ PPE should not be washed in home laundry or laundromat facilities (water and machines become hazardous materials and the hazardous water drains into untreated sewers)

PPE Returns (HOW)

- ◆ Complete PPE Pick-Up Qualtrics form and EH&S will come to collect from your space (form is available on the PPE Website)
- ◆ Drop off in the 'PPE Returns' tote box in the EH&S Lobby during business hours.

PPE Compliance

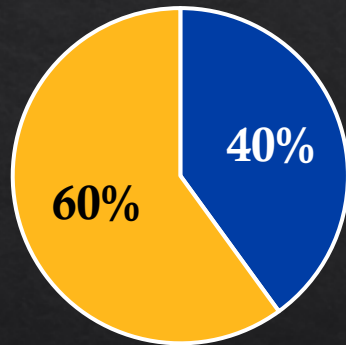
Campus PPE Compliance for FY25-26



■ % Compliance ■ % Non-Compliance

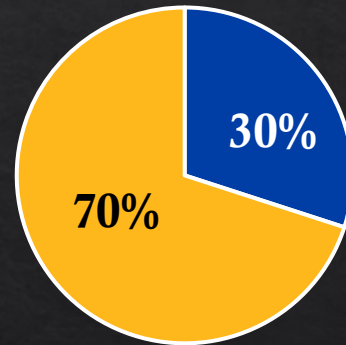
PPE Compliance (College)

BCOE PPE Compliance for FY25-26



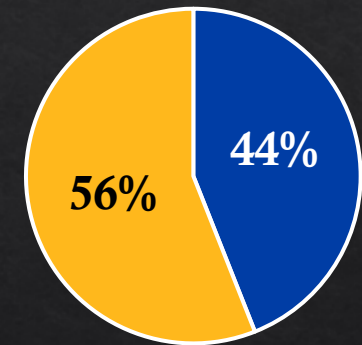
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BMS PPE Compliance for FY25-26



■ % Compliance ■ % Non-Compliance

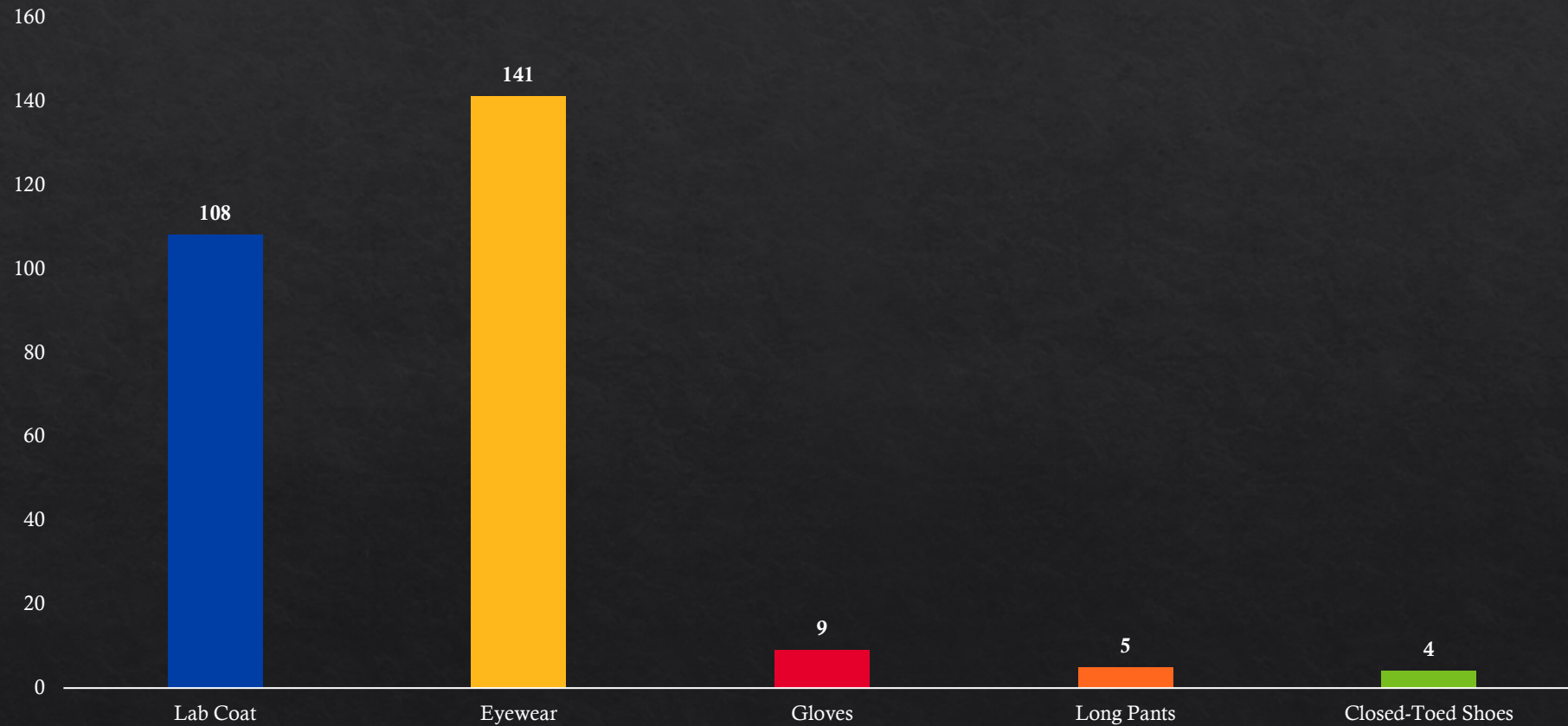
CNAS PPE Compliance for FY25-26



■ % Compliance ■ % Non-Compliance

PPE Compliance by type

PPE Missing on Campus for FY25-26



PPE Program Reminders

- ◇ Bourns is the least used locker – unused lockers may be closed and locations merged with other locations.
- ◇ Laundry is picked up and dropped off every Monday morning
 - Laundry typically takes 1-2 weeks
 - Campus closures mean the vendor does not visit
 - Check all pockets are empty (vendor facility is off-site and services MULTIPLE businesses and campuses)
 - Vendor does not provide notification when cleaned coat is returned
 - EH&S clears out abandoned coats at least once per quarter (all will be contacted prior)

Training Course Updates



Training course updates

- Changes to many training courses
 - Accessibility
 - Standardization across UC system
 - Utilization review/retiring outdated courses

Courses Replaced

- [Biosafety STC](#) replaced: Biosafety; IBC Training
- [Fire Safety and Prevention](#) replaced: Fire Extinguishers — Online Training Video
- [Hazardous Waste Management](#) replaced: Hazardous Materials & Waste Management
- [Radiation Safety Online Training](#) replaced: Radiation Safety Fundamentals (RAM+RPM); Radiation Safety Refresher (RPM) Radiation Producing Machines; Radiation Safety Refresher (RAM) Radioactive Materials
- [Safety Orientation/Injury & Illness Prevention Program](#) replaced: Safety Orientation; Sprains and Strains Module; Slips, Trips, and Falls



What this means for you

- New course codes/links
 - Maintain credit for older versions of courses
- Improved training
 - Tight focus on regulatory requirements
 - Most are shorter
- Fire extinguisher course not included in Lab Safety Fundamentals
 - Mismatch in training cadence (3 year versus annual)
 - Need to take separately every year
- New course information available in your RSS Group Training dashboard