

Safe Science is Good Science

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS

Hazard Identification
& Risk Assessment

Caltech



Risk assessments are crucial for conducting research projects safely.

The process of identifying hazards, determining the severity of potential risks, and establishing suitable/proper control measures are in place are key components to keep the academic community safe.

- [Risk assessments of planned research](#) should be undertaken **before** proceeding with research activities.
- Reviewing [Safety Data Sheets](#) (SDS), scheduling consultation with the EH&S staff and discussing the work projects are important in determining the risks, how to address and control them.
- Risk assessments should be revised periodically. Especially with any changes of the research experiment, like introducing new chemicals or adding steps to the process, new equipment, change in concentration of already assessed chemical(s), etc.
- To minimize risks, the hierarchy of controls is used, done by elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and PPE. EH&S helps establish the hierarchy of controls.
- Contact the EH&S Office at x6727 to schedule a consultation.



Caltech

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICE
safety@caltech.edu • <https://www.safety.caltech.edu/>
(626) 395-6727

