

Caltech EH&S Update – January 2026

The Environmental Health and Safety Office promotes a safe and healthy campus by empowering the Institute community to integrate safety, environmental stewardship, and proactive risk management into all research and campus activities, with annual reviews and updates that strengthen the Institute's culture of safety.

NOTABLE EH&S PROGRAM REVISIONS and TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chemical Hygiene Plan

- EPA-aligned requirements for Dichloromethane work.
- Additional references to support safe chemical use.

Electrical Safety Awareness Program

- NEW! Applies to all Caltech personnel who need to have a basic awareness of electrical safety in their areas.

Hazardous Waste Management Guide

- Updated handling of hazardous / nonhazardous waste.

Non-Ionizing Radiation Safety Manual

- Protection guidelines for RF, UV, microwaves, etc.

New and Updated Fact Sheets:

- [Vacuum Pump Safety](#)
- [Syringe Selection – Safety Practices](#)
- [Field Research Hazard Assessment Tool](#)

Training Summary:

EH&S provided 275 Instructor-led training sessions for 2,635 attendees and 3,047 persons completed online module learnings.

READY-REFERENCE TRAINING MATRICES

The 2025 Controlled Substances and Chemical Precursors Program audit concluded with no findings, indicating strong adherence to applicable regulatory and institute requirements. The audit further confirmed that the program is effective in supporting safe, compliant research activities across the Institute. EH&S thanks all who participated.

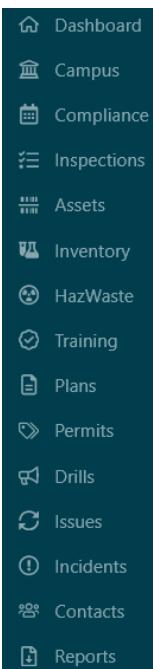
KEY RESOURCES & LINKS

- [Environmental Health & Safety Policy](#)
- [Facilities Service Requests](#)
- [Injury and Illness Prevention Program](#)

WELCOME

NANCY CARRILLO, Ph.D.
Safety Engineer, Research / Chemical Safety supporting CCE and Resnick.

See the EH&S Website for more Essential Safety Resources



CampusOptics

CampusOptics is the EH&S work management tool that was fully launched in 2025. Using this tool over the course of the year:

- EH&S completed 192 laboratory inspections including 95 labs inspected for the use of biological material.
- Completed fire/life/safety inspections for the twelve student houses on campus, the Children's Center, thirteen machine shops, and all campus dining areas.
- EH&S engineers were deployed on campus individually and in teams for over 200 instances to follow-up on incidents, assess hazardous conditions or address campus safety needs.
- 41% of EH&S interventions were related to injuries, with over half of these events involving lifting, repetitive motion, or slips, trips, and falls, underscoring the importance of everyday safe work practices.

In 2026, EH&S is expanding the use of CampusOptics, at no cost to campus users:

- Providing direct campus-wide access to online links for reporting incidents, near misses, and hazardous conditions.
- Making it easier for all community members to raise concerns and actively support a safer campus environment.

Want Help? Have Questions? Contact Caltech's EH&S Team!

Environmental Health and Safety

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