

# Safetygram

NCI Frederick

ISM139

Laboratory Personnel

December 2011

## Laboratory Clothing

- **Labcoats.** A fully fastened lab coat should be worn at all times when working in the laboratory. This is particularly important for personnel wearing skirts, dresses or other warm weather attire. Shorts are not recommended when working with chemicals or biologicals. Laboratory coats should be kept inside the lab and are not to be worn outside of the building or in administrative areas.
- **Long Hair.** Long hair should be restrained when operating equipment with exposed moving components or when working with chemicals or biologicals. Unrestrained long hair can easily become ensnared in moving machinery or contaminated.
- **Shoes.** Open toed shoes are not appropriate laboratory footwear. Proper laboratory footwear consists of a shoe which covers the foot. Steel toed shoes can be purchased if the work situation requires it. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that laboratory personnel wear appropriate footwear.
- **Safety Glasses, Goggles and Face Shields.** Safety glasses with side shields provide protection against damage from flying objects. They provide minimal protection from chemical or biological splashes. For the best protection against splashes, wear safety goggles or face shield over safety glasses. Supervisors are responsible for determining the level of eyewear protection required in the lab. EHS can assist in making the assessment. In some cases, it may be necessary to increase the level of eyewear protection. For example, to protect eyes from splashes when working with liquid nitrogen, splash goggles in combination with a face shield would be appropriate. (See Safetygram 154 for more information).
- **Gloves.** A wide variety of gloves are available to meet laboratory personnel needs for dexterity and comfort as well as protection against biological, chemical, radioactive, and physical hazards. Leather gloves help prevent injuries when handling heavy or rough objects, while others protect your hands from being cut or burned. Surgical or examination gloves provide an adequate barrier for some tasks, but specialized nitrile, butyl, or other types of gloves may be needed for prolonged contact with

many chemicals. Latex gloves should never be worn for protection from chemicals. Remember, not all gloves will provide an adequate level of protection from chemicals. You may consult the glove manufacturer, the MSDS, or EHS for glove chemical compatibility.

For further information, please call EHS at x1451.