Guidelines for Transporting Chemicals

Environmental Health and Safety has established the following guidelines for transporting any hazardous chemicals (i.e. toxic, corrosive, flammable or reactive) on campus. Please note that these guidelines do not apply to bio-hazardous materials, radioactive materials or to chemicals packaged for household consumption.

Guidelines:

- Anyone who transports hazardous chemicals must be aware of the chemical's hazards. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are an excellent resource for hazard information. Any shock sensitive, highly acute, or other high hazardous chemicals should not be transported without first contacting EH&S.
- Wear appropriate PPE while transporting chemicals. The MSDS is an excellent resource to find this information. Examples of appropriate PPE to wear include gloves, lab coat and safety glasses. This ensures you will be protected if any hazardous chemicals spill or splash on skin during transport.
- Hazardous chemicals must be attended AT ALL TIMES while transporting.
- Use secondary containment (i.e. pans, buckets), that is capable of containing the chemicals in the event of a spill.
- Separate incompatible chemicals during transport. Make sure incompatibles are being transported in secondary containment and transported in a way that they will not react or combine. This can be done by using dedicated secondary containment for each hazard type, or transporting separately all together.
- Use sturdy carts for transporting heavy, multiple, or large containers.
- Make sure all chemicals are properly labeled. If transporting waste to the waste room, make sure all containers have a properly completed UT hazardous waste label.
- Transport gas cylinders securely attached to a compressed gas cart, and with the valve covers screwed on.
- If you must use an elevator to transport hazardous materials, try to use a freight elevator. Avoid using a passenger elevator.
- Avoid transporting hazardous materials in a passenger vehicle. If you must transport hazardous materials on campus, please contact EH&S for assistance.
- If you need to ship hazardous materials by land, sea or air (i.e. Fed-ex or UPS), you must contact EH&S before shipping.
- Transport cryogens only in approved storage vessels (e.g. dewar flasks with pressure relief mechanisms). Make sure to wear appropriate PPE, such as a face shield and goggles, heavy gloves, heavy apron and closed-toe shoes.
- Don't forget to immediately update chemical inventories to reflect the relocation or disposal of chemicals.