

Safe Work Practices For Working With Laboratory Fume Hoods

Fume hoods are designed to provide protection from chemical and radiological hazards. However, careless work practices can cause considerable to adverse exposures to users who may believe he or she is protected. To optimize the safety and protection of fume hoods the following work practices must be followed:

1. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will inspect each fume hood annually to ensure the face velocity is between 80 and 100 feet per minute (fpm). An inspection sticker should be clearly visible on the face of the fume hood. Before using the fume hood ensure that the hood has a current inspection. If the fume hood does not have a current inspection, contact EH&S at ext. 4763.
2. Place all items to be used inside the fume hood and pull the sash down to the yellow line. Each fume hood should have a yellow sash mark positioned 6 to 8 inches from the countertop.
3. Once the sash is positioned at the recommend level, verify that the fume hood is drawing air by taping a “Kimwipe” to the sash. If the wipe is draw inside the hood, the fume hood is drawing air. *** This test does not ensure that the fume hood is drawing air at the correct face velocity. To have the fume hood accurately test, contact EH&S at ext. 4763. ***
4. Beginning working by placing your hand inside the hood. Make sure to keep all apparatus at least six inches inside the hood.