

CEM OHSE NEWSLETTER



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Introducing the CEM OHSE UNIT

This innovative unit, housed within the Chemistry department, comprises of a laboratory health and safety specialist, well-versed in both laboratory and general building infrastructure, and an occupational health and safety officer. Distinct from the University of Cape Town's (UCT) general occupational health, safety, and environmental (OHSE) unit, this unit takes on the unique responsibility of implementing both general health and safety practices and specialized laboratory research protocols.



Meet the Team

Monique Muller
Laboratory Health Safety Infrastructure
Specialist



Dr Sophie Rees-Jones
Occupational Health and Safety officer



What does the team offer?

With a focus on undergraduate, post-graduate, and general research laboratories, this unit serves as a trusted advisor to the Chemistry department, as well as other departments, faculties, and external organizations. Their expertise spans a wide range of topics, including but not limited to: 1) ensuring proper storage and disposal of hazardous chemical agents, 2) establishing laboratory-specific standard operating procedures, 3) developing comprehensive health and safety protocols and policies and 4) laboratory design. Moreover, their capabilities extend to conducting ergonomic assessments and general health and safety audits, ensuring a holistic approach to laboratory well-being.



What's new from the CEM OHS UNIT

The team has been busy preparing some new policies and SOPs for the chemistry department. Please check these out.

<https://science.uct.ac.za/department-chemistry/ohse-unit>

After hours policy

It is crucial to pay close attention to this policy, as unexpected incidents can happen at any given moment. Picture this: you find yourself alone in a laboratory after hours, and suddenly, an incident arises. There won't be a soul around to lend a helping hand or even contact someone for assistance. Scary, right? Well, it has happened before! Fortunately, on those occasions, there happened to be someone nearby in another laboratory who was able to come to the aid of their fellow student.

But let's not rely solely on luck. It's essential to be fully aware of the materials you're working with during after-hours. You wouldn't want to be dealing with something that



could easily burst into flames, would you? So, exercise caution and ensure that you're not working with anything potentially dangerous.

Moreover, always remember to obtain permission and inform your supervisor when you plan to work after hours. It's a simple step that can make a world of difference.

For more detailed information, please take a moment to peruse the After Hours Policy by clicking on the link provided below. Trust me, it's worth your time!

https://science.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/science_uct_ac_za/232/After%20Hours%20Work%20Policy%20092023.pdf

Exciting Announcement: Discover Our Brand-New Lab Attire Policy!

We are thrilled to inform you about our recently published lab attire policy, which can be found on all entrances to our laboratories.

Now, let's get down to business. The CEM OHSE team cannot stress enough the importance of adhering to this policy. So, here's the deal: no more shorts, open-toe shoes, or those dreaded ripped jeans in our laboratories. We want to create an atmosphere that promotes professionalism, while keeping you safe from any potential hazards. Trust us, this policy is designed with your well-being in mind.

We understand that change can be daunting but fear not! We are here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lab attire policy, our friendly OHSE team is just a phone call or email away. We're all in this together, after all!

Together, we will create a lab environment that is not only safe, but the future of lab fashion. Let's make a statement, one lab coat at a time!

https://science.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/science_uct_ac_za/232/SOP%20Regulator%20Installation%20and%20Maintenance.pdf

Exciting news just in! SOP on changing a gas regulator.

Are you feeling unsure about how to change an argon or nitrogen cylinder? Well, fret no more! We have just released our brand-new SOP on changing regulators, and it's packed with all the essential do's and don'ts.

Now, you can dive into the fascinating world of cylinder changes with confidence and ease. Our comprehensive guide will walk you through the entire process, ensuring that you have all the necessary knowledge at your fingertips.

So, what are you waiting for? Grab your copy of our SOP on changing regulators and embark on an exciting journey towards mastering this essential skill.

https://science.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/science_uct_ac_za/232/SOP%20Regulator%20Installation%20and%20Maintenance.pdf

