Laboratory Safety:
Basic Student Guidelines

**Safety is a priority at Texas A&M University!**

While it may seem unlikely that an accident could happen to you, you should know the accident rate in universities is 10 to 100 times greater than in the chemical industry. To help prevent accidents, safety notes are included in the lab manual. In addition, relevant Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are in a laboratory binder and guidelines are posted. Pay close attention to this information – our goals are:
1. To avoid accidents in the lab, and
2. To respond promptly and appropriately should an accident occur.

**Safety depends on you!**

It is your responsibility to follow the instructions in the lab manual and any additional guidelines provided by your instructor. It is also your responsibility to be familiar with the location and operation of safety equipment such as eyewash units, showers, fire extinguishers, chemical spill cleanup kits etc. Questions about chemicals can be answered by referring to the appropriate Material Safety Data Sheet. If you need help deciphering an MSDS, please see your instructor.
• Do not work in the lab alone. Practice the buddy system.

• **Wear PPE goggles** whenever you use chemicals. Bring your own, or obtain them from your instructor or the lab manager. You will not be allowed to complete a laboratory without goggles.

• **Wear PPE gloves** as instructed. Assume hands are contaminated even if gloves are worn. Do not touch your face and eyes. **Wash** frequently during the lab and before you leave the lab. It is highly recommended that you bring extra gloves to each laboratory session.

• **Wear appropriate protective clothing.** No open-toed shoes, sandals, shorts, shirts with dangling sleeves, or bare legs allowed in labs. Tie back long hair and do not wear dangling jewelry.

• **Clean** your workstation and return all glassware and materials to appropriate stations **before** leaving the lab.

• **Do not pour** chemicals down a drain or pour outside. Dispose of properly.

• **Always** read the label information and the MSDS. Do not remove information **labels** from bottles. If a label is missing notify your instructor immediately.

• **Do not eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics** in the laboratory.

• **Absolutely no Alcohol or other controlled substances allowed.**

• **Absolutely no horseplay** in the laboratory.

• **Dispose of sharp objects** and waste properly — place broken glass in the glass discard container, metal in the metal waste container, and place other waste materials in the designated container(s).

• Keep **flammable** chemicals away from heat sources. Note that hotplates retain heat after being turned off and Bunsen burner flames may appear nearly invisible. Treat both with caution.

• **Do not** mouth pipette liquids, “sniff” chemicals or ingest them.

• **Clean spills** promptly. Alert your instructor to ALL chemical spills, and follow spill response guidelines from the material safety data sheet.
Student Safety Contract Agreement

Look College of Engineering
Texas A&M University

By signing this form, I verify that I have read, understood, and agreed to follow the safety regulations required for this course as established by the Look College of Engineering and Texas A&M University. I have located all emergency equipment and PPE, and now know how to use it. While in the laboratory, improper conduct and horseplay of any kind that may endanger others or myself will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken. I understand that I may be dismissed from this laboratory for failure to comply with the established safety procedures for this laboratory, and with all TAMU & TEES Safety Rules:

Date: ________________
Course: __________________ Section: __________________________
Research Activity: ____________________________________________
Instructor: ___________________________________________________________________
Student Name (print): ________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________ Phone: __________________
Email: ____________________________________________

Person(s) to be notified in the event of an accident of emergency:
Name (print): __________________________ Relationship: ______________________
Phone (home): __________________________ Phone (work): ______________________

(Optional: Any special medical conditions or other comments pertaining to laboratory safety)

Signature: ___________________________________________________________________