

Theatre Safety

Hazard Communication

Various chemicals are used in all stages of a performing arts production. Some of the more common exposures include paints and solvents used in relation to scenery, production and set construction, fire retardants and paints applied to costumes, dry ice used for smoke/fog, oil-based and water-based fog fluids for special effects and makeup.

Basic Guidelines

1. Refer to the [University Hazard Communication Program, procedures, and training requirements](#).
2. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) per training and as specified by the Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
3. Label all secondary containers with the chemical's name and primary hazard warning.
4. Immediately report chemical spills to University Police.
5. Ensure all chemicals are stored in appropriate containers and/or cabinets.

Maintain an Organized Facility

1. Ensure the chemical inventory is updated on a regular basis, in accordance with the guideline set forth in the Hazard Communication Program.
2. Maintain a lean, well-managed chemical inventory.
3. Evaluate storage methods to ensure incompatible chemicals are stored separately.
4. Provide appropriate storage cabinets for flammable and combustible materials.
5. Keep corridors free of hazardous materials at all times.
6. Keep containers, including hazardous waste containers, closed except when in use.

Follow Safe Handling Procedures

1. Evaluate the hazards: Read the SDS before beginning work with a chemical.
2. Ensure appropriate PPE is available and used.
3. Label all secondary containers.

Be Prepared

1. Clean up only small quantity spills if trained to do so. In the event of a large spill, clean up should be conducted by specially trained personnel.
2. Know the locations of emergency equipment and how to use it: telephone, first aid kit, fire extinguishers, eyewash and emergency shower, and spill kit (if applicable).

Identify and Handle Hazardous Waste

1. Regularly check hazardous materials to identify expiration dates and unwanted materials.
2. Follow the [University's Hazardous Waste Program](#) to ensure compliance with waste collection and disposal.
3. Contact EH&S for proper disposal of hazardous waste.