



Advances in Student-Led Safety at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

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Why was the JST formed?

A need for improved safety and culture of safety

Safety survey reveals lab risk

*Questionnaire suggests researchers not as safe as they feel.*³

Recognized as leader in student-led safety.²

PARTNERING ON SAFETY

Dow teams up with universities to **SHARE IDEAS, BEST PRACTICES**

JYLLIAN KEMSLEY, C&EN WEST COAST NEWS BUREAU

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCHERS run their labs with much more attention to safety than do academic researchers, or so holds conventional wisdom. Dow Chemical is now tackling that disparity head-on in a pilot safety collaboration with chemistry, chemical engineering, and materials science departments at the University of Minnesota (UMN), Pennsylvania State University and the University of California, Santa

then Penn State shortly after. UCSB engaged in July. Each university formed a safety team composed principally of students and postdocs from the different departments involved. That's because students and postdocs are the ones actually working in labs, says William B. Tolman, chair of the chemistry department at UMN. Tolman adds that the students at UMN have risen to the chal-

Why JST?

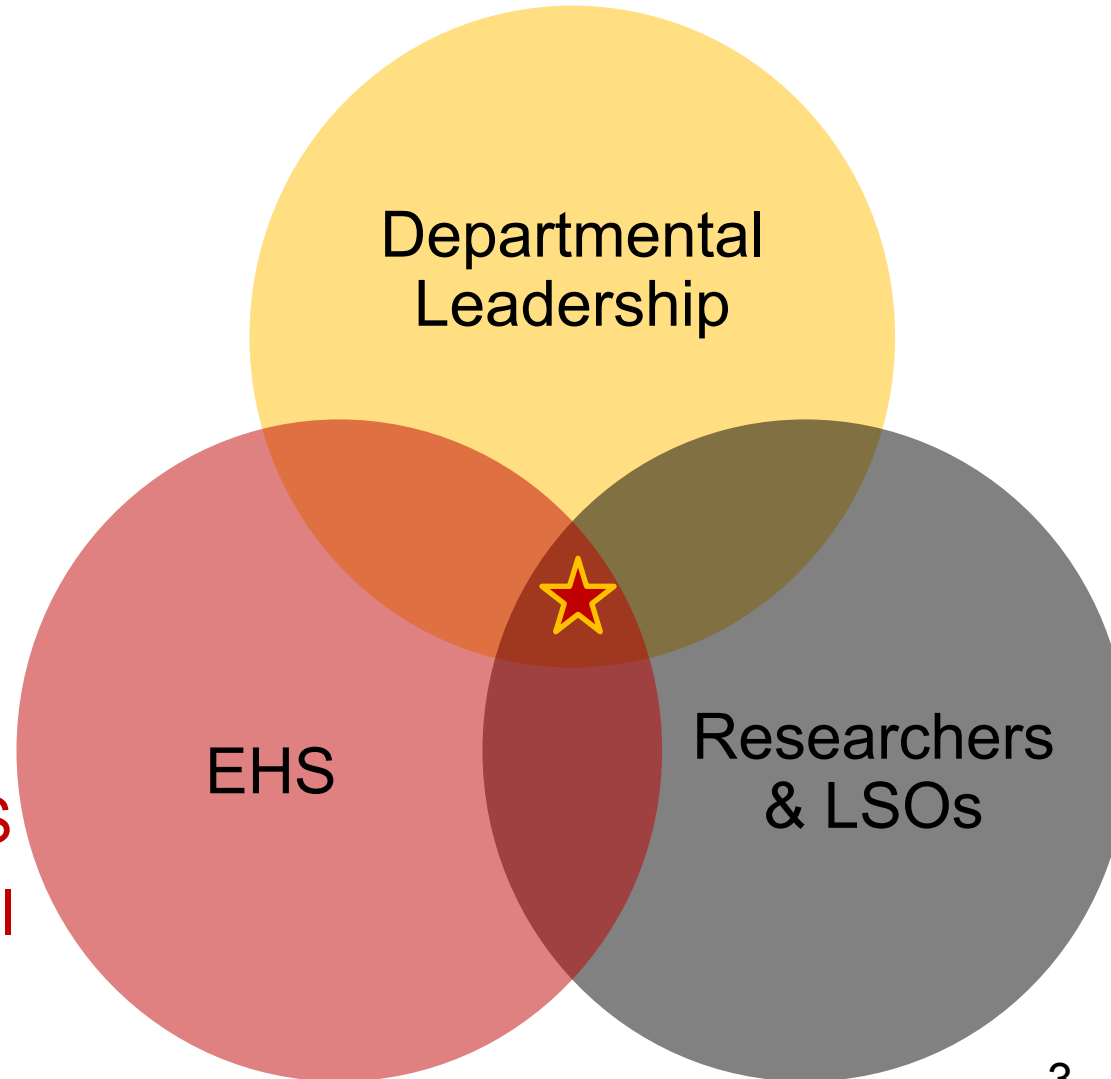
- Increased safety awareness
- Better prepared for career in industry or as a PI
- Encourage safe chemistry practice

Setting the Groundwork

★ Lasting Changes

Joint Safety Team (JST)

Researcher-led initiative between CHEM and CEMS supported by departmental leaders and EHS



Mission Statement

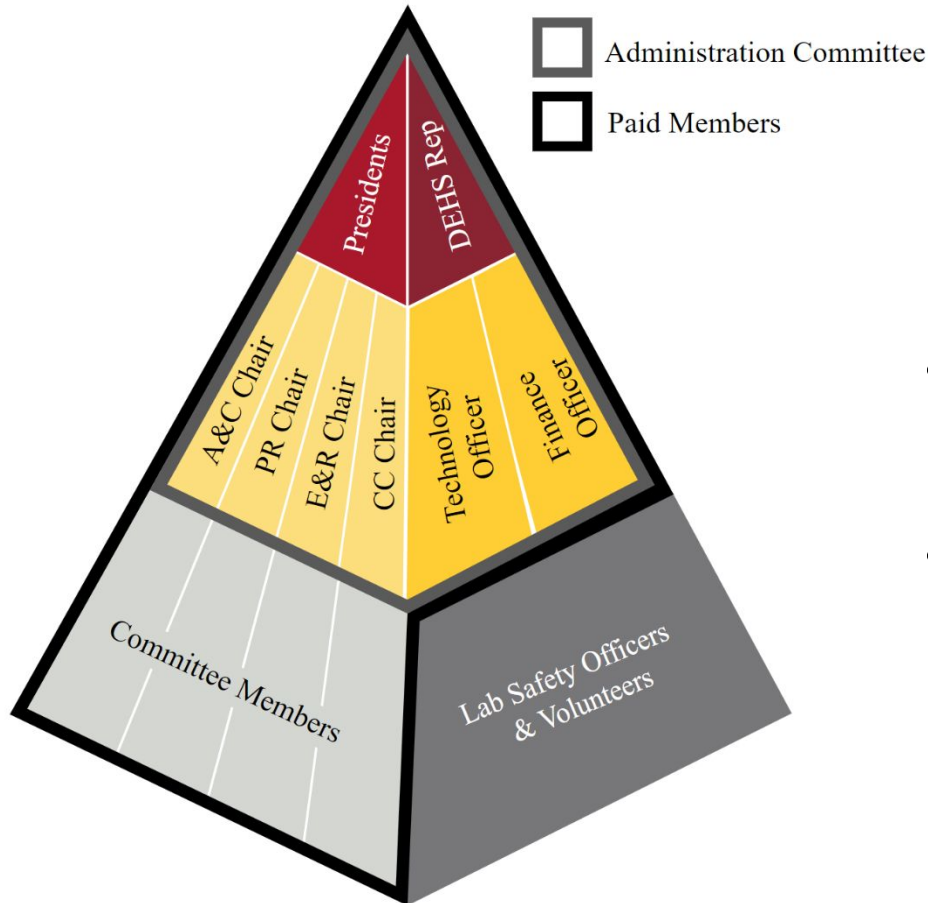
Mission Statement:

Student-led initiative to improve the safety culture in the CHEM and CEMS department at the University of Minnesota*

C A R E S

- C**ompliance Define and enforce standard roles and expectations through biannual lab audits
- A**wareness Enhance safety through signage, safety moments, posters, and email communication
- R**esources Provide easy access to information and establish a system for maintaining records
- E**ducation Provide frequent and relevant safety education and training
- S**pread Connect work to local chemical industry, PUIs, and high schools.

Organization Structure



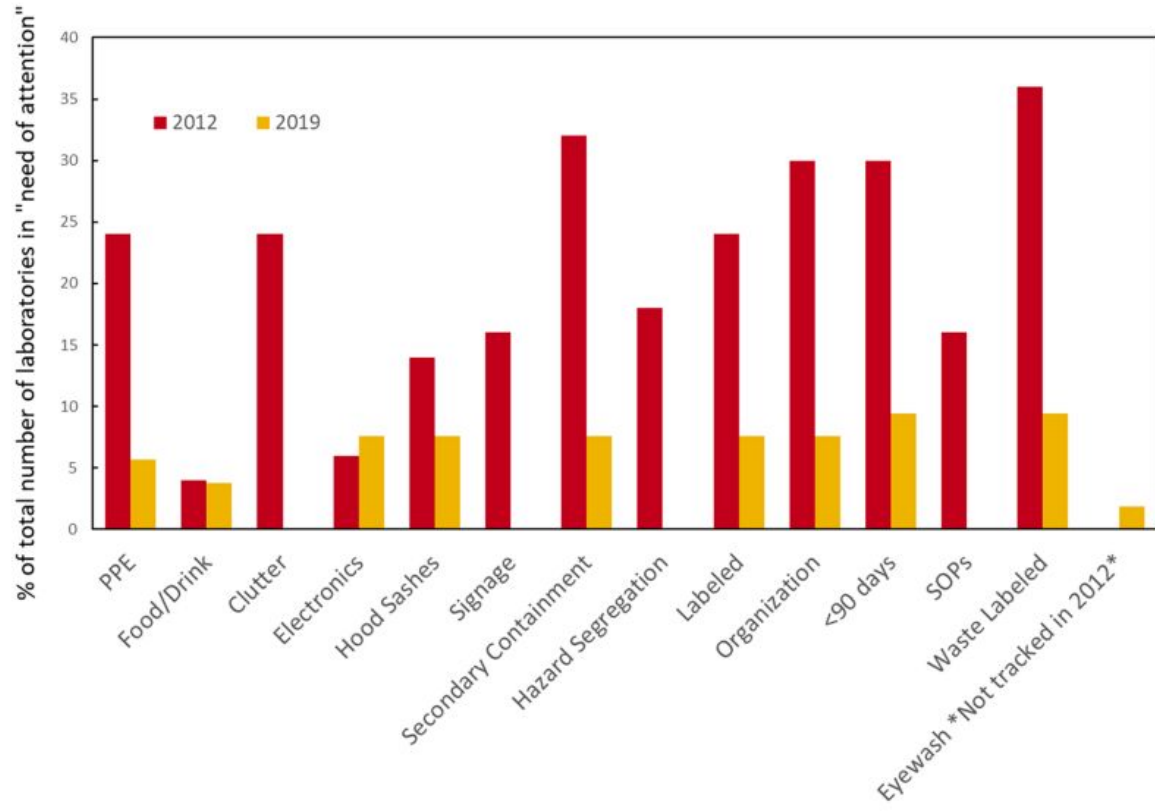
- Committees
 - Their initiative responsibilities
 - Membership
- Administrative committee members and their roles
- Relationships with EH&S and department admin.

CARES: Compliance

Analysis & Compliance Committee

Ensuring safety protocols are maintained

- Lab walk-throughs
- Yearly Surveys



CARES: Awareness

Public Relations Committee

Increasing safety visibility

- Posters, signs, and fliers
- Social media presences
- Safety moments

Safety Starts with **U** Evacuation Plan

Spring 2023



1 Ensure others near you are aware and leaving the building



2 Grab the closest group checklist



3 Check your other labs to alert your group members



4 Gather outside the building in a safe place and use the checklist to make sure everyone is accounted for



Where should you wear:



Safety Glasses or Goggles

- Worn in all labs where required
- When working with chemicals

Lab coats

- Worn in all labs where required
- May be worn while moving between laboratories
- **NOT** to be worn in non-chemical areas (offices, restrooms, etc.)

Gloves

- Worn in all labs where required
- When working with chemicals
- **NOT** to be worn when traveling between labs or in non-chemical areas (offices, restrooms, etc.)

Long Pants and Closed-Toe Shoes

- Worn in all labs where required
- When working with chemicals

CARES: Resources & Education

Education & Resources Committee

- New LSO training
- LSO Guidebook
- Specific hazard training (Compressed gas, laser safety)

An example: Scenario 1 - procedure

Steps

- Go slow – add quenching reagents in small amounts
- Consider ice bath and an inert atmosphere for vessel
- Consider adding a non-reactive, high boiling solvent as a heat sink
- Start with branched alcohol (i.e., *t*-butanol, isopropanol, *sec*-butanol)
- Add linear alcohols next (i.e., ethanol, methanol)
- Water goes in last (*add cautiously*)
- Dispose of using properly labeled waste container



<http://kgroup.du.edu/safety/sop/quenching.pdf>



University of Minnesota

Safety Seminars and Training Events



Joint Safety Team

Recruit faculty or EHS staff to present a safety seminar event or host hands-on training. Students initially only focus on logistics and work toward completely organizing events.

Options for Safety Events

Safety Seminar



Hands-on Training



Student Organized Event



Common Questions about Safety Events

- Who attends* → Lab Safety Officers (LSOs) and other graduate researchers
Who hosts → Faculty, EHS staff, students, industrial volunteers. Anyone of interest
What to cover → Safety topics with knowledgeable volunteers that are of interest to researchers
Where to host → Seminars in a classroom and hands-on training in a teaching lab or EHS facility
When to host → Whenever! LSTs can host events monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, or semesterly
Why have one → Improve knowledge and safety of researchers and gain visibility
How to start → Recruit faculty or EHS staff to prepare content while the LST handles logistics

CARES: Spread

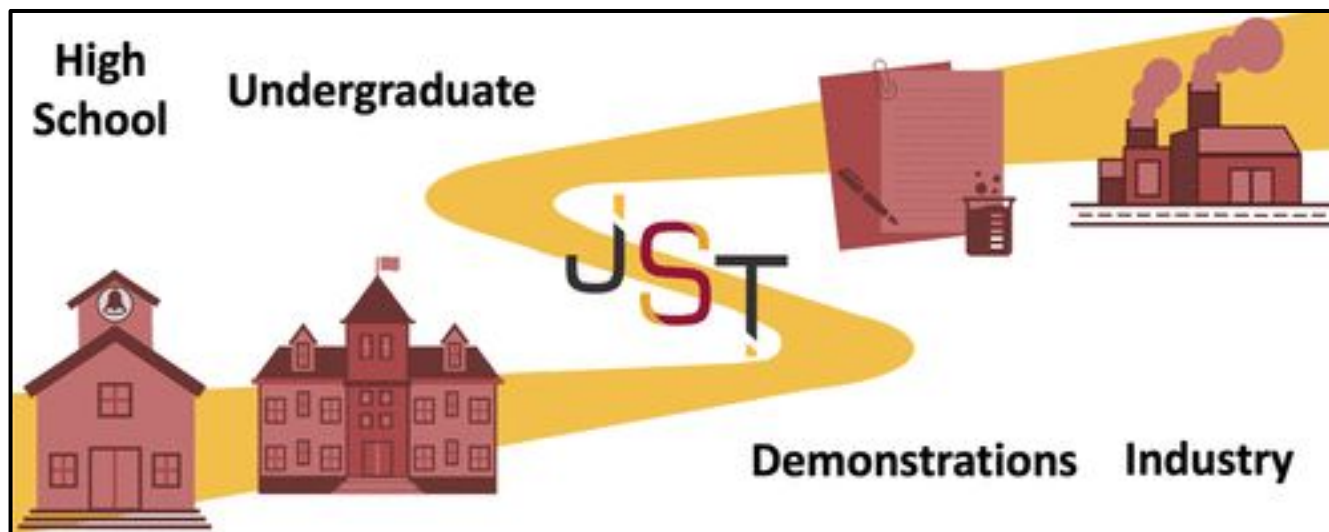
Community Connections

Connecting goals JST to the larger Minnesota community

- local chemical industries
- primarily undergraduate institutions
- high schools

Recent Programs

- Lab safety for training for high school teachers
- PUI tours and JST discussion



JST's 10 Curated Resources

JST Curated Resources Description

The Joint Safety Team (JST) curated resources for those interested in starting or sustaining a Lab Safety Team (LST) with approachability for a single person or small group in mind.

Safety Initiatives for Any Number of Motivated Individuals

Single Individual	Small Group	Large Group

Objective of the Curated Resources

To share the resources that have made the Joint Safety Team successful in improving safety culture in the Chemistry (CHEM) and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science (CEMS) departments at the University of Minnesota (UMN). The JST wanted to make sure the resources would be useful to individuals and small groups interested in starting or sustaining a Lab Safety Team (LST) and hence organized the resources by approachability, high visibility, and impact.

Curated Resources Table of Contents

Individual tasks

These tasks require the least effort and have high visibility to recruit support and more members.

1. [Posters and Newsletters](#) – Can easily be printed or emailed to spread awareness.
2. [Signage, SOP, and SOC Templates](#) – Can be recommended for labs to use.
3. [Factsheets](#) – Can address information needs of researchers to gain their support.
4. [LSO Roles and Responsibilities](#) – Can provide guidance to lab safety officers (LSOs) once tailored to your university.

Small Group

These tasks have a greater impact but require more effort that is better suited for a few people.

5. [Safety Communication](#) – Set up a means for LSOs and researchers to discuss safety.
6. [Safety Event](#) – Recruit faculty or EHS staff to give a safety seminar or training.
7. [Industry Connections](#) – Reach out to local industries for a safety seminar or lab tour.

Large Group

These tasks require a larger buy-in from students, faculty, and administration.

8. [Walkthroughs and Safety Surveys](#) – Send out a survey or organize labs to do peer audits.
9. [Committee and Member Structure](#) – As initiatives and membership grow a committee structure might be worth considering. Use what suits your department's needs.
10. [Funding and Support Structure](#) – Financial support and other forms of department buy-in will help LSTs gain legitimacy and improve recruitment. Use these details to negotiate funds.
11. [Other items](#) – Other JST resources to consider.

Individual

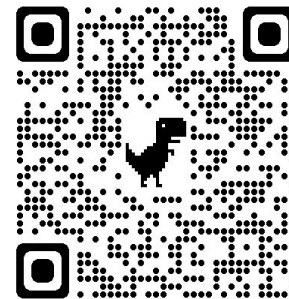
1. Posters and Newsletters.
2. Signage, SOP, and SOC Templates
3. Factsheets
4. LSO Roles and Responsibilities

Small Group

5. Safety Communication
6. Safety Event
7. Industry Connections

Large Group

8. Walkthroughs and Safety Surveys
9. Committee and Member Structure
10. Funding and Support Structure



Printable Information

1. Posters and Newsletters
2. Signage, SOP, and SOC templates
3. Factsheets

University Health and Safety Fact Sheet

Eyewash Requirements

Eyewashes must be readily accessible in areas with a fume hood, hazardous chemicals, and BSL-2 or BSL-3 spaces. They must be flushed weekly to ensure they are working and to prevent bacteria buildup. Records must be readily available and kept for 1 year.

Weekly checks

Visual inspection:

1. Check for corrosion, leaks, and bacteria growth on the surface
2. Make sure the eyewash area is free from clutter and is easily accessible
3. Check that the eyewash log is visible, signed weekly, and in good condition

Flush:

1. Flush for 2-3 minutes or until the water runs clear
2. Check that the water flow is immediate (within one second), continuous, and that both streams are roughly the same height
3. Make sure that a hands-free unit can be operated as such
4. Sign the log posted next to the eyewash

Report any problems to Facilities Management at 612-624-2900.

In the event of an eye exposure

If you are the injured person:

1. Call for help from those nearby
2. Immediately go to the eyewash
3. Activate the eye wash and flush your eyes for 15 minutes, unless directed otherwise by emergency personnel
4. Seek medical attention for every eye injury

If you are the witness/aid:

1. Help the injured person get to the eyewash
2. Call 911
3. Don gloves and help the injured party keep their eyes open and head down
4. Instruct the injured person to:
 - a. Remove contact lenses prior to flushing
 - b. Not to rub their eyes or try to dislodge objects
 - c. Hold their eyelids open and roll their eyes around to ensure water touches all surfaces
 - d. Wash both eyes even if they only believe one has been contaminated
5. Make sure there is a minimum of 15 minutes of flushing, unless directed otherwise by emergency responders



10 guidelines for a SAFER lab

- 1. Electronics Up on Blocks
- 2. No Food or Drink
- 3. Proper Waste Storage
- 4. Proper Chemical Storage
- 5. Proper Sample Storage
- 6. Appropriate PPE at All Times
 - Safety Glasses
 - Lab Coat
 - Appropriate Gloves
 - Long Pants
 - Closed-toed Shoes
- 7. Proper Signage
- 8. Maintain SOPs
- 9. Proper Sash Height
- 10. Remove Clutter

Joint Safety Team
Departments of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
Questions? Comments? Contact JST@ucsd.edu or visit us at jst.ucsd.edu
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Safety Starts with U



Clarifying LSO Roles & Responsibilities

Graduate researchers are often assigned as a lab's safety contact, sometimes without documented instructions

- Lab Safety Officer
- Lab Safety Contact
- Safety Designate
- Chemical Hygiene Officer

The screenshot shows a digital document titled "LSO Guidebook Public Version" with a "Request edit access" button. The table of contents lists various sections and their page numbers:

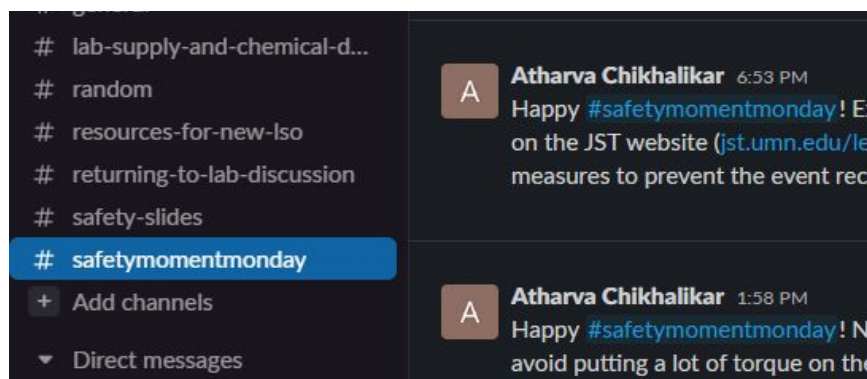
Section	Page
Table of Contents	
About the JST	3
Roles and Responsibilities of a Lab Safety Officer	4
Research Group Responsibilities	4
JST Responsibilities	8
Chemical Safety Plans and Emergency Procedures	11
Chemistry Department	11
CEMS Department	11
Chemical Spills Emergency Procedures	12
Other Important Resources	14
Laboratory Signage	15
Hazards Signage (Required)	15
Safe Operating Cards (SOCs)	16
Labeling Samples	16
Other Useful Signage	16
Standard Operating Procedures	18
Writing and Maintaining Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	18
Purpose	18
Organizing and Writing the SOP	19
Maintaining Your SOPs	20
Conclusion	21
List of Common Laboratory SOPs	21
EXAMPLE: DEHS Standard Operating Procedure	24
EXAMPLE: Group Specific SOP	26

Accessibility

- Easy for 1 person to email to other LSOs
- Motivate other students to get join the cause

Encouraging LSO Safety Communication

- Set up an X account (Twitter) to share safety tips
- Discussion topics for an LSO messaging group/app
- Learning Experience Reports



Learning Experience Reports

If you experienced or observed an incident, an accident, or an 'almost!' situation, please report it here:

[Learning Experience Report Form \(requires a University of Minnesota e-mail address\)](#)

Important:

If someone was injured (even minor cuts or exposures), please be sure a [First Report of Injury form](#) has been completed first! See our [Incident Reporting](#) page for more.

What is required:

The submission form is anonymous and only requires a brief description of the incident and the suggested measures that could be taken to solve the problem. Anyone with a UMN account can create a submission.

Engaging Event Volunteers

6. Request university staff or faculty to give safety seminars

- Waste disposal
- Hazard specific
 - Cryogenic
 - Lasers
 - Gas cylinders

7. Recruit from industry for safety panels, tours, or funding



Standardized Walkthrough & Survey Templates

- Semesterly peer-to-peer walkthroughs allow LSOs to inspect each other's labs
 - General and hazard specific rubrics
- Safety surveys gauge safety sentiments in labs

Principal Investigator: _____

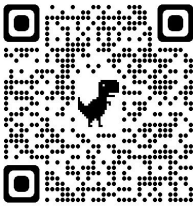
JST Auditor: _____

Lab Safety Officer: _____

Room(s): _____

Safety Item	Exemplary	Acceptable	Needs Attention	Comments
Researchers wearing correct PPE				
No food or drink in lab				
Aisles and hallways clear of chemicals and clutter				
Electronics near possible leakage sources raised off floor				
Hood sashes low				
Proper lab signage (emergency contacts, PPE requirements)				
Samples and chemicals in secondary containment where appropriate				
Samples and chemicals segregated by hazard				
Samples and chemicals labeled (name, date, hazards)				
Liquid chemicals stored below eye level (if possible) and in secure position				

10 JST Resources for LSTs



1. Posters and Newsletters
2. Signage, SOP, and SOC templates
3. Factsheets
4. LSO Roles and Responsibilities
5. Safety Communication Network
6. Education Event Recruitment
7. Industry Tour or Panel Recruitment
8. Peer Walkthrough Rubrics & Safety Survey Templates
9. JST Structure and Initiatives
10. Department and Industry Funding

Email us at jst@umn.edu

Visit our website jst.umn.edu

Thank you

- UMN Chemistry Department and Chemical Engineering & Material Science Department
- PPG
- DOW
- Valspar
- JST members past and present

Departmental Support



Industrial Support

