

May 10, 2001

ALL OCCUPANTS OF LABORATORY BUILDINGS

Re: Planning for Power Failures: Instructions for Laboratory Personnel

UCSC supervisors and workers are required to anticipate the consequences of an electric power interruption where employee safety may be impacted. EH&S recognizes that laboratory operations can pose a significant risk to building occupants and has outlined below guidance to lab personnel on appropriate actions to take regarding a power outage. This guidance assumes the laboratory building ventilation system is not operational.

Before a Power Outage

- ❑ Ensure emergency contact information on your door cards is current with correct contact information. Persons listed may need to be contacted 24 hours a day and should be knowledgeable about all major operations of your laboratory.
- ❑ Make a list of equipment that must be reset or restarted. Keep instructions for doing so in a nearby place. Equipment that operates unattended should be programmed to shut down safely during a power failure and to not restart automatically when power returns.
- ❑ Do not store flammables in domestic refrigerators. This is an even greater hazard during a power outage because vapor concentration may increase creating an explosive atmosphere inside of a unit where sparking is imminent.
- ❑ If possible, avoid riding in elevators during a Stage 3 power alert. Elevator doors will not open when power is interrupted.

While the Power is Off - During Working Hours

- ❑ Secure all hazardous experiment. Make sure that any experiments in progress are stabilized and discontinued.
- ❑ Securely cap all chemical containers, extinguish all flames, close gas valves, store cultures and secure radioactive materials.
- ❑ Completely close the sash of each fume hood in your lab.
- ❑ Power off all equipment so it does not reenergize when power is restored to the building.
- ❑ Close all interior lab doors to reduce spread of fugitive emissions and improve fire safety risks.
- ❑ Check any equipment on emergency power. It may take up to 30 seconds for the emergency power to kick in. Items not permanently connected to emergency power outlets should not be connected during a power interruption.
- ❑ Exit the lab and lock exterior lab doors.

- Evacuate the lab block and follow established Departmental specific directives and supervisor guidance regarding alternate work locations.

When the Power Returns

Reset/restart/check equipment. In particular, check to ensure airflow of your fume hood has been restored. If your fume hood has not automatically re-started, call Physical Plant- work order desk at x9-4444. Keep the sashes closed and do not use the hood until you are sure the hood exhaust system is working.

Planning makes any emergency easier to handle. Take this opportunity to review your laboratory and building emergency procedures before a power failure strikes. If you have questions or need more information call EH&S at 459-2553.

Sincerely,

s/n Buddy Morris
Buddy Morris
Interim EH&S Director

This guidance is provided as part of the UCSC Injury and Illness Prevention Program. California's Injury and Illness Prevention (IIP) Program Title 8, California Code of Regulations, Section 3203 requires employers to make hazard assessment determinations and to establish, implement and maintain procedures for employee safety where hazard determinations are made.