



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Student/Intern Safety

Senior Leadership ViTS Meeting
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It doesn't have to be spectacular to hurt -- Examples of ARC student injury cases

Swollen Eyes

- Wiping eyes with contaminated hands

Burned Hands & Respiratory Irritation

- Pouring acetone into acid waste container

Cut Finger

- Cut finger when moving an airplane model

Respiratory Irritation

- While conducting an experiment transferring liquid into test tubes, employee experienced upper respiratory symptoms

Chemical Burn

- Splashed with phosphoric acid to left eye and right corner of mouth

Laceration

- Cut finger with a box cutter resulting in a laceration



- **Students were getting hurt because:**
 - Students were unaware of the hazards in their workplace
 - Mentors were not providing proper orientation and proper personal protective equipment
 - Mentors assumed that students were familiar with tools and laboratory practices
- **To address these issues, ARC instituted:**
 - Safety training sessions for mentors prior to onboarding students
 - Tailored safety training for students



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ARC required training for students/interns consists of:

Minimum for all Student/Interns:

- New Hire Safety and Environmental Orientation
- Building Emergency Evacuation Plan – **Supervisor/Mentor**
- Hazard Communication (for office workers or for chemical users) - **SATERN**

Additional Minimum for Shop, Wind tunnel or Laboratory Student/Interns

- Chemical hygiene, hearing conservation, protective equipment, hazardous waste

Between 2 and 6.5 hours of training



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Ames

Discovery • Innovations • Solutions

In our training, we emphasize that everyone is responsible for safety for themselves and those near them...

Know risks and safety requirements of your job

Complete required safety and health training

Use required personal protective equipment

Talk to your supervisor and your colleagues about safety

Correct hazards or mitigate them

Know what to do in an emergency

★ Report safety concerns and hazards – and be positively supportive when others report concerns

Set a good safety example **“Walk-the-Talk”**



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We emphasize that a lot of folks get hurt in unspectacular ways. For example:

- **Employee lacerated finger while cutting a bagel**
- **Employee tripped on plastic floor mat falling into chair**
- **Employee strained groin while lifting ladder**
- **Employee tripped on edge of carpet, striking face and chest on floor**
- **Employee cut across lawn, fell and scraped left shin on sprinkler**
- **Employee scraped finger while moving furniture in office**

We let the interns know that preventing these types of injuries will help prevent larger and more serious mishaps.



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Research is risky business, but there is a right way to take risks. We tell our students/interns -Think About This...

▪ **Habits - Develop good safety habits**



▪ **Risk - Appreciate the actual risk being taken**

(don't just assume you understand the risks – do your own research to find out the facts)



▪ **Abilities - Don't overestimate your abilities**

(the most common mistake we all make)

