

# LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

## Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

**Risk assessments are crucial for conducting research projects safely.**

**The process of identifying hazards, determining the severity of potential risks and establishing that suitable/proper control measures are in place is a key component to keep the academic community safe.**

- Risk assessments of planned research should be undertaken **before** proceeding with research activities. Consult your research advisor **prior** to any scale-up operations to review potentially hazardous conditions.
- Reviewing Safety Data Sheets (SDS), scheduling consultation with the EHS staff and discussing the work projects are important steps in determining the risks and how to address and control them.
- Risk assessments (RAs) should be revised periodically. Review RAs with any changes to the research experiment, like introducing new chemicals, adding steps to the process, using new equipment, or changes in the concentration of already assessed chemicals.
- To minimize risks, the hierarchy of controls is used, done by elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and personal protective equipment (PPE).



Environmental Health and Safety [safety@ehs.pitt.edu](mailto:safety@ehs.pitt.edu) (412)-624-9505

