



Welcome to the Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS)'s website

It is a great time to be in chemistry and I am proud to call myself a chemist. And I am so fortunate to be associated with such wonderful volunteer colleagues in the ACS Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) as we share our passion and interest in safety. Our team is working to help others in the chemical enterprise prevent incidents and injuries through our publications and educational efforts.

In response to the continued occurrence of laboratory incidents within the academic community, we developed a task force that produced "*Creating Safety Cultures in Academic Institutions*" in 2012. This report described the elements of a strong safety culture and steps that could be used to strengthen safety cultures in college and universities. The report has been well received and we have distributed thousands of copies to our academic colleagues.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (Chemical Safety Board or CSB) investigated a serious explosion in a university research laboratory. One of their findings was that risk assessment in academic research laboratories was missing or lacking. CSB asked ACS to develop a tool to help laboratory researchers conduct risk assessments of their operations. CCS partnered with the Division of Chemical Safety and Health (CHAS) in forming a task force that produce their draft report "*Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories*" in 2013. This report describes five different techniques that can be used to assess the risks of the hazards in a research laboratory – each researcher could select the techniques that they believed worked best for them. Once again this report has been well received and CCS will be issuing its final report in early 2014.

In our continuing efforts to serve the academic community CCS is now working on a new edition of *Safety in Academic Chemistry Laboratories* – known as SAFL (sack L). Since its initial publication CCS has distributed more than 1 million copies to our academic colleagues. We will be producing the 8th edition of SAFL to include the new Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the OSHA revised Hazard Communication Standard that includes GHS. CCS solicits suggestions to make this new edition even more useful than previous editions.

CCS in continuing its efforts in safety education has taken steps to form the Task Force for Safety Education Guidelines. TFSEG will develop guidelines for laboratory safety education for primary, secondary, baccalaureate, and graduate education. These guidelines would identify safety topics and areas that should be taught and competencies that should be tested at various levels throughout the entire educational process. A college educator colleague talking about the importance of safety education guidelines once told me "how can we expect our educators to teach safety if they don't know what they are supposed to teach?" We will be partnering with other organizations within the ACS community and solicit input and suggestions for these guidelines.

In addition to all of this, CCS provides advice and suggestions on a continuous basis to other ACS organizations for their operations and publications as it relates to education and safety promotion. From time to time CCS helps develop responses to legislative and regulatory measures that may affect ACS and the chemical enterprise. We also provide recommendations for safe practices and guidance for other chemical operations.

CCS has a prime responsibility to encourage safe practices in chemical activities, and it serves as a resource for counsel and advice in handling chemicals, stimulating education in safe chemical practices, and promoting safe facilities, designs, and operations. We look forward to supporting and working with our fellow chemists as they seek ways to improve laboratory safety. If you know of really great safety programs and efforts that are building strong safety skills in our future chemists, we want to know about them. We need and want to hear your voice about preventing incidents and improving safety – please share your thoughts with us at safety@acs.org.

Robert H. Hill, Jr., Chair
Joint Board Council Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS)