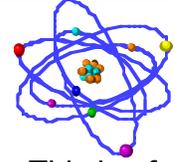


# Laboratory Safety Fact Sheet #1

## Nonstructural Seismic Hazard Reduction Policies



Earthquakes have occurred and will continue to occur in the Santa Barbara area. This is of particular concern in UCSB laboratories where the presence of hazardous materials, compressed gases, high voltage sources, etc., would pose serious hazards to individuals and buildings in a quake. In addition, the presence of expensive, difficult to replace lab equipment makes the need for evaluating the seismic anchoring needs of your lab critical.

### Campus policies:

- All furnishings and equipment over 48 inches in height must be fastened to a wall or floor in a manner to prevent falling in an earthquake.
- Storage of large, heavy items must be kept below head level.
- All compressed gas cylinders must be secured individually to a solid structural member with 3/16 inch welded chain or equivalent bracing. At least one chain must be used to secure each cylinder at a point two-thirds up the cylinder's height. C-clamp bench attachments and fiber/web strap attachments will not be allowed. Any variations of these requirements must be approved by Environmental Health & Safety.
- Chemical storage shelving must have shelf lips or other restraining devices (e.g. wire or bungee cord along edge) installed to prevent chemicals from falling.
- To prevent accidental mixing of chemicals that could result in a fire, explosion or toxic release, incompatible chemicals must be segregated into separate, labeled areas or into separate rigid secondary containment such as plastic tubs. For more specific information on the classification and storage of particular chemicals consult the *UCSB Chemical Hygiene Plan* or contact EH&S at x-4899.

### Recommended practices:

- While not a safety issue, there are often expensive pieces of lab equipment, e.g. electronics, that you may wish to seismically anchor. UCSB Central Stores carries products that work well for securing these items.
- Based on earthquake experiences at Cal State Northridge, UCLA and UCSC it is recommended that researchers maintain extra copies of irreplaceable files such as research data in a separate location.

**Responsibility:** The responsibility for compliance and funding of these policies rests with the department Chair or department head. Lab supervisors are responsible for identifying and implementing areas where the above policies apply in their labs. Environmental Health & Safety will act in an advisory capacity.

### References:

University Policy on Seismic Safety, rev. 5/2/94

University Policy on Nonstructural Seismic Hazard Reduction, Policy 5445, rev. 6/1/95