



**Northwestern
University**

Approving University Official(s): Senior Vice President for
Business and Finance
Responsible Offices: Office for Research Safety and Office of Risk
Management
Effective date: June 6, 2019
Next review date: June 6, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Policy Statement

Northwestern University is fully committed to environmental health and safety (EHS). The University's EHS program supports its educational and research mission by providing employees, students and visitors with a clear understanding of Northwestern's concern for protecting the University community from injuries and illnesses, preventing accidents and fires, planning for emergencies, and identifying and controlling physical, chemical and biological hazards. The University, through the offices of Risk Management and Research Safety, has developed an EHS program in compliance with federal, state, and local laws including regulations promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Transportation.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to effectuate the University's EHS program by ensuring that members of the University Community follow all safety measures, report non-compliance, and participate in EHS trainings.

Audience

All members of the Northwestern community including faculty, staff, students, contractors and visitors to campus.

Policy Implementation

I. Adherence to Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Regulations and Procedures

All members of the Northwestern community are expected to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws, and University policies and procedures governing EHS, including those referenced in this policy (see "Related Information" below).

II. Reporting

All members of the Northwestern community are expected to report hazardous conditions, EHS related injuries and illnesses, and unsafe activities or hazardous conditions that may be a violation of any environmental health and safety law, regulation, policy or procedure to Research Safety and/or Risk Management. Generally, Research Safety is responsible for health and safety in the University's science programs and research laboratories (biological, chemical and radiological) and Risk Management handles EHS in non-laboratory spaces.

Reports may be made anonymously through EthicsPoint.

III. Training

All members of the Northwestern community are expected to participate in assigned EHS related training, with the caveat that some training is mandatory and some training is optional.

Human Resources, through its myHR Learn system, serves as a records repository of completion of required training for Northwestern employees. Research Safety or Risk Management may maintain other training¹ records outside of the myHR Learn system.

Consequences of Violating this Policy

Northwestern faculty, staff, students, visitors, and contractors who violate applicable federal, state, and local laws, or University policies and procedures governing EHS including the programs referenced in this policy (see “Related Information” below) may be subject to disciplinary action under University policies and procedures. The University may be subject to civil penalties including fines stemming from violations of applicable federal, state and local laws. The University may terminate its relationship with any third-party contractor who violates this policy.

Statement of Protection for Reporting Concerns

The University’s [Policy on Non-Retaliation](#) prohibits retaliation against any member of its community for reporting or inquiring in good faith about what the member believes to be wrongful or unlawful activity.

Related Information

Laws, regulations, ordinances and standards

[US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration 29 CFR 1910 General Industry Standards and where applicable 29 CFR 1926](#)

[US Environmental Protection Agency](#)

[Illinois Pollution Control Board Title 35: Environmental Protection](#)

[Cook County Environment and Sustainability](#)

[Cook County Ordinances and Codes](#)

[City of Chicago Fire Prevention](#) and [Life Safety Ordinance](#)

[City of Evanston Ordinances and Codes](#)

University policies procedures, guidelines and forms:

[Research Safety](#)

Risk Management – [Environmental Health and Safety](#)

¹ See “Related Information” for links with information on required training.

Contacts

The following individuals/offices can address questions regarding this Policy:

Michael Blayney, Executive Director
Office for Research Safety

Phone: (847) 491-4387; email: michael.blayney@northwestern.edu

Gwen Butler, Director, Environmental Health and Safety
Risk, Internal Audit, and Compliance

Phone: (847) 491-4936; email: gwen.butler@northwestern.edu

History

New policy effective 06/2019

Policy URL:

<http://policies.northwestern.edu/docs/university-ehs-policy-final.pdf>