

# LAB HAZARD ASSESSMENT A PILOT PROJECT

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# Purpose of EHS Lab Hazard Assessment (LHA) Pilot Project

- Develop mechanism/tools to assess and prioritize the hazards in our research and teaching labs
  - ▣ Primarily focused on Chemical and Physical hazards
  - ▣ To date - 24 LHAs conducted across Institute

# Desired Outcomes



- Better Understanding (documentation) of the Hazards and Controls in MIT Labs overall
- Assignment of Institute/EHS resources
- Dialogue with researchers on hazards and how to control them
- Next generation of EHS Management System

# Process

Intended to be a dialogue with researchers

- Group volunteers, requested, get PI OK
- Coordination to schedule, 60 -90 minute goal
- Participants – EHS Lab Rep, EHS Coordinator, EHS staff
- Discussion, questions
- Walk through of lab
- Write-up of findings and recommendations

# Researchers

- Is this exercise Helpful?
- Is it better than an inspection?
- Can it start the process of answering the question –  
How is my Lab doing with regard to Safety?
- LHA is part of the experimental process
  - ▣ Hazard Assessment should be part of what you regularly do.
  - ▣ Hazard Assessment is part of what you regularly do.
  - ▣ Could have a direct acute safety benefit.
  - ▣ Could help on continuity of research (operations).

# Triggers for Detailed review, SOP, ...

- Idea of thresholds for focused reviews
- Threshold for SOPs
- Set at Institute level, DLC level, committee?
  
- No Committee for Physical Hazards?
  - ▣ In some areas – a great deal of expertise in the Institute, while not necessarily in EHS.

# Pilot Next Steps

- Continue to reach out, take volunteers, work with EHS Coordinators and additional EHS staff to perform LHAs
- Trial LHAs in an entire DLC
- Perform LHAs for undergraduate course experiments (Chem E, Chemistry, Mech E)
- Perform LHAs w/Groups where renovations/new labs are planned
- Continue to ask for and incorporate feedback from participants

## Future

- Propose ratings scheme
- Who should perform LHAs?
- Replace one of two semi-annual Level 2 inspections with an LHA?