



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

April 29, 2013

To the Texas Tech Community,

In early 2013, Texas Tech completed a major revision and update to the university's Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP), which clearly defines roles, responsibilities and procedures around laboratory and workplace safety. Interim President Lawrence Schovanec recently reaffirmed his support of the CHP and of a verification program to ensure that all members of the TTU community are aware of its recommendations.

Interim President Schovanec and I are now asking all faculty, staff and students who work with chemicals and/or hazards in our laboratories, studios, shops and other facilities to complete a short, open-book assessment to verify that they have reviewed the new CHP. This assessment, which can be completed online, was created by the Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee and the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).

The revised CHP is posted on the [EH&S website](#). The assessment instrument can be found on the [EH&S online training Web page](#). Once you have signed in using your eRaider information, begin the assessment by scrolling down to the Chemical Hygiene Plan Training section and click the "Start Training" link.

EH&S will work with laboratory and workplace managers to make sure their groups have completed the assessment. Deadlines are:

- **Aug. 15** for current faculty, staff and students
- **Oct. 1** of first year for anyone joining the university after Aug. 15, 2013

The revised CHP and this verification program are a result of a U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigation into a 2010 incident in a TTU chemistry laboratory that left a graduate student seriously injured. Following its investigation, the CSB recommended that Texas Tech revise and expand its CHP to ensure that physical safety hazards are addressed and controlled, and develop a verification program that ensures that the safety provisions of the CHP are communicated, followed and enforced at all levels within the university.

Following the 2010 chemistry lab incident, Texas Tech pledged to become an exemplar for laboratory safety. Safety is everyone's responsibility, and I applaud the leadership our deans, department chairs, faculty and staff have shown as we continue to strive to honor that pledge.

If you have questions about the CHP, please don't hesitate to call EH&S at (806) 742-3876.

Bob Smith

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