



Your partner in safety.



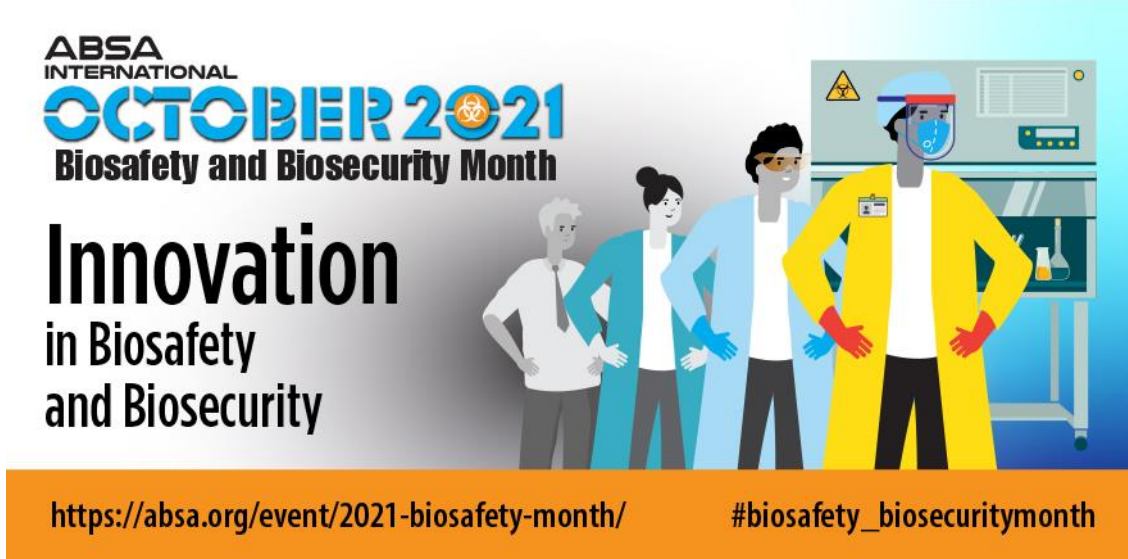
Hello Red Raider Family,

We hope the fall semester is treating you well. October is Biosafety & Biosecurity month! See the tips below for some ideas to commemorate this annual safety celebration.

Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) is always here to answer your safety

questions. We want you to feel supported and *safe* in your educational and occupational activities here at Texas Tech because - *safe* science is *smart* science.

Wreck 'em Red Raiders!



The graphic features the text 'ABSA INTERNATIONAL OCTOBER 2021 Biosafety and Biosecurity Month' in blue and black. Below this is the theme 'Innovation in Biosafety and Biosecurity' in large black font. An illustration shows four people in a lab setting: a man in a white shirt, a woman in a blue lab coat, a man in a blue lab coat, and a woman in a yellow lab coat with a face shield. A biohazard symbol is visible on a piece of equipment in the background.

<https://absa.org/event/2021-biosafety-month/> #biosafety_biosecuritymonth

It's Biosafety and Biosecurity month! This year's theme recognizes innovation in the biosafety and biosecurity field. During this month, let's consider how innovation has formed the profession itself, sustainability internationally, and the global relationships its created!

[Learn more about Biosafety & Biosecurity Month!](#)

Ways YOU can celebrate Biosafety Month!

- Review your WASP and SOPs.
 - Do these documents address the safety procedures in your work area(s) or do they need updating?

- Do SOPs contain all the needed information from set up to waste disposal and what to do in emergencies?
 - Have sharps and glass use been minimized where possible?
 - Have all users signed off on the documents and demonstrated proficiency?
 - Do your annual training and proficiency evaluation of lab personnel. This is a requirement for both BSL1 and BSL2 laboratories per the BMBL and is one of the most-cited safety departures during laboratory surveys.
 - Do a biological risk assessment on a biological agent used in your lab at your next research group meeting. Use the [Biological Risk Assessment Worksheet](#) and [Pathogen Safety Data Sheets](#) to identify proper work controls.
 - Use [Glo Germ](#) to put your hand washing skills to the test. Proper handwashing is not just essential in the lab, but in life to slow the spread of infectious diseases. You can request a loaner bottle of Glo Germ from EHS if needed.
 - Conduct a biological spill response training in your lab. You will need:
 - Two different colored water solutions (one for the contaminant and one for the disinfectant)
 - Sorbent material, preferably what you would normally use for a spill (i.e. paper towels, several small cloth towels, bath towel, pig pads, etc.)
 - Pieces of plastic cups/plates and tongs (optional; for mock glass)
 - Deep clean your biological equipment and biowaste bins.
 - Have your PPE laundered (do NOT take it home to do so). Coats may be dropped off at the Chemistry Department stockroom for laundering (charges apply).
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Chemical Waste Consolidation Oct.12 - 26th

Chemical and universal waste will not be collected Tuesday, October 12 – Tuesday, October 26, 2021 as EHS staff prepare hazardous waste streams for transport to a treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF).

Biological waste will be collected as scheduled and all waste stream collection will resume on November 2, 2021.

Please contact ehs.environmental.safety@ttu.edu with any questions.

Autoclave Safety Training



Online autoclave safety training is required for all autoclave users.

Site-specific training on individual units must still be provided to users by a supervisor.

[Request online training](#)

Glass Disposal Update

Biologically contaminated broken glass may now be disposed of in sharps containers. Other acceptable glass items include microscope slides, cover slips, and Pasteur pipettes.



Whole glassware should still be disinfected and discarded into a glass waste receptacle.

Logging Biowaste Treatments

Biowaste Treatment Log - Autoclave				
PI: _____		The waste in the log below was prepared according to SOP:		
BLDG: _____		The autoclave in room _____ was used according to SOP:		
ROOM: _____		The autoclave in room _____ was used according to SOP:		
Biowaste is autoclaved at a minimum of 121°C and 15psi for no less than 30 minutes.				
DATE MM/DD/YYYY	PRINTED NAME	INITIALS	QTY (lbs. or L) OF WASTE	COMMENTS

PAGE ___ of ___

Each treatment of biological waste must be logged. Waste treatment includes sterilization by autoclave or chemical disinfection. Records must be maintained in the work area for three years. Logs with the state-required information and SOPs for both methods are available on the EHS website.

- [Autoclave treatment log](#)
- [Chemical disinfection of liquid biowaste treatment log](#)
- [Chemical disinfection of solid biowaste log](#)



Have you seen the videos produced by EHS?

From spill response and PPE to proper disinfection, we've got you covered with easy-to-follow, engaging videos!

Check them out and subscribe to our [YouTube channel!](#)

About EHS

The Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) works to instill the value of safe and environmentally-conscious behavior throughout the campus community. Our responsibilities include:

- **Academic Safety** - Chemical, Biological, Field, Radiation, Laser, and Magnetic Field Safety;
- **Environmental Protection** - Hazardous and universal waste disposal, stormwater monitoring, and air permit oversight;
- **Occupational Safety** - AEDs, Ergonomics, Indoor Air Quality, Forklift Safety, Hazard Communication, Shop & Studio Safety, Respiratory Protection and the Occupational Health Program;
- **Public Health** - Certification of the university's food vendors, pool sanitation and drinking water;
- **Training & Outreach** - Presentations for a variety of occupational and academic safety topics, website and social media management, and other campus outreach.

Services

- [Submit a Waste Request](#)

- [Request Online Safety Training](#)
- [Submit a Shipping Form](#)
- [Request a safety talk](#)
- [Request a Temporary Food Permit](#)
- [Occupational Health Program](#)
- [Report a Safety Concern](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



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A PDF version of this newsletter can be found at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ehs/about/newsletters.php>.