GROSS ANATOMY SAFETY PROCEDURES

In order to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) formaldehyde standard (29 CFR 1910.1048) and to maintain safe work practices, the following actions are instituted and will be enforced.

NOTE: Each of these requirements is equally important and they are not presented in order of priority.

Faculty, Staff, and Students

1. Do not eat or drink in the laboratory.
2. No photographs are to be taken at any time in the laboratory.
3. Absolutely no anatomical material may be taken from the laboratory at any time under any circumstances. This includes prostheses such as artificial joints, heart valves, etc.
4. Avoid touching face when working with formaldehyde solutions in the laboratory.
5. Maintain adequate distance from the cadaver or organ specimens in order to prevent unnecessary exposure to formaldehyde vapors. Avoid placing head and face in close proximity to any exposed areas that may contain substantial quantities of formaldehyde (e.g. open thorax and abdominal regions).
6. Empty and rinse all drainage buckets at the cadaver tables daily. Be sure to run plenty of hot water when pouring drainage buckets into the sinks. Add formaldehyde neutralizer to each bucket after emptying to reduce vapors.
7. Immediately clean all spills of formaldehyde containing solutions with formaldehyde neutralizer.
8. When working with cadavers, remove as much free liquid as possible from the body bags.
9. Keep all body bags closed when the cadaver is not in use.
10. Keep all containers of formaldehyde closed when not in use including organ specimen containers.
11. All sharps (e.g., scalpel blades, needles) are to be disposed of in the specified sharps containers immediately after use.

Maintenance Personnel

1. Laboratory floors should be cleaned with industrial strength cleaners at least once every two weeks and more often as required during large scale anatomical investigations (e.g. during the fall semester Human Body Course).

Engineering Controls

1. Maintain at least 15 air changes per hour in the Gross Anatomy Laboratory.

Protective Equipment

1. Full length laboratory coats should be worn at all times and laundered regularly.
2. Splash-resistant goggles and face-shields should be worn when the possibility of splash hazard exists.
3. Butyl or nitrile gloves should be worn in the laboratory at all times when working with cadavers or specimens preserved in formaldehyde containing solutions.
4. Aprons and sleeve covers should be worn at all times when working with cadavers or specimens preserved in formaldehyde containing solutions or when working with formaldehyde fixing solutions.
5. Immediately remove any protective coverings that become contaminated with formaldehyde
In the Event of Accidental Contact

1. Eye Contact
   A. Flush eyes immediately for at least fifteen minutes.
   B. Contact the laboratory manager or a faculty member and seek medical treatment in the emergency room immediately.

2. Skin Contact
   Drench the affected body area immediately and wash thoroughly with soap and water until no evidence of the chemical remains (at least 15 minutes).

In the Event of Accidental Cuts

A. Wash the cut thoroughly with soap and water as above for at least fifteen minutes.
B. For any serious cuts, contact the laboratory manager or a faculty member immediately and seek medical treatment in the emergency room.