

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

Department of Chemistry, Queen's University

Fall 2022

1. Masks

The triple-whammy of COVID, flu, and RSV has filled the hospital emergency rooms. To combat the triple threat, Queen's University *strongly recommends* that "students, staff, and faculty wear a mask in indoor settings where physical distancing cannot be maintained, including instructional spaces." Also, if you're sick, please stay home. More details can be found here: <https://www.queensu.ca/covidinfo/update-masking-and-public-health-measures-queens>.

2. If the fire alarm sounds

Leave the building immediately by the nearest exit. Do not use the elevators. Proceed to the Chemistry Department's assembly area (the front lawn of Victoria Hall). Keep entranceways and roadways clear. Do not re-enter the building until Campus Security or the fire department say that it is ok to do so. Only re-enter the building by the north entrance, NOT the south entrance or any other entrance. (Last time we had a fire drill, people were re-entering the building at the south doors before the all-clear was given.)

If you suspect that the fire alarm is a fire drill, exit anyway. Do not remain in the building. The purpose of a fire drill is to test the speed and completeness of the evacuation! It's also possible for a real fire to happen on the day of a planned fire drill.

If you suspect that the fire alarm is merely a test of the alarm system, wait for a few seconds. If the alarm continues to sound, it's not a test. Evacuate.

The university's emergency response procedures can be found here:

<https://www.queensu.ca/risk/security/emergency-response-procedures>

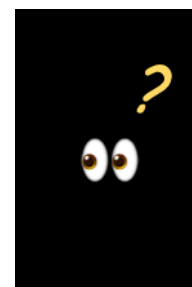
and in particular in the booklet "Responding to Emergencies" here:

https://www.queensu.ca/risk/sites/rsswww/files/uploaded_files/CSES/emergency-booklet.pdf



3. Power failures

If the power fails in the building, the emergency lights will turn on after about 30 seconds. If this happens at night, you may find yourself in complete darkness for those 30 seconds. If you're in a difficult situation when everything goes dark, like carrying a hazardous material or in the middle of performing an experiment, you could either stand still for half a minute until the emergency lights go on, or use your cell phone to supply light. In the future, the delay before emergency lights switch on may be significantly shorter.



4. Electrical outlets near sinks

At home, any electrical outlets near a sink or bath must be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). That's to reduce the risk if an electrical item is dropped into water while being plugged-in. Unfortunately, that rule doesn't apply to universities, so we have many electrical outlets beside or behind sinks, and they're



NOT equipped with GFCI. Don't use those outlets! Cap them off with plastic covers like the ones used to baby-proof a home. They're inexpensive (\$5 for 24) and a good investment towards avoiding a nasty accident.

5. Suspicious individuals

Since the summer, we have had several suspicious individuals enter the building and the research wing. We are working with Campus Security and Kingston Police to monitor these individuals and we do not believe there is any immediate danger. We would like to remind people to keep an eye out for suspicious individuals and call campus security 613-533-6111 (or hit the red button) to report any sightings. When entering the building or the research wing, please use your own access cards. Don't let anyone follow behind you.



Questions or Concerns about Safety? Please bring them to the attention of your supervisor. For further information, contact the Safety Committee Chair (Philip Jessop, jessop@queensu.ca) or our Safety Officer (Alaina Boyd, a.boyd@queensu.ca). Suggestions for the newsletter are always welcome.