**Risk assessments are crucial for   
conducting research projects safely.**

**The process of identifying hazards,   
determining the severity of potential risks   
and establishing suitable/proper control   
measures in place are key components to   
keep the academic community safe.**

* Risk assessments of planned research should be undertaken **before** proceeding with research activities.
* Reviewing Safety Data Sheets (SDS), scheduling consultation with the EHS staff and discussing the work projects are important in determining the risks, how to address and control them.
* Risk assessments should be revised periodically - especially with any changes of the research experiment, like introducing new chemicals or adding steps to the process, new equipment, change in concentration of already assessed chemical etc.
* To minimize risks, the hierarchy of controls is used, done by elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls and PPE. EHS helps establishing the hierarchy of controls. Contact EHS at [psuehs@psu.edu](mailto:psuehs@psu.edu) to schedule a consultation.

**Environmental Health & Safety**

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