Emergency Shower and Eyewash
- Emergency showers and eyewashes are for immediate rinsing of hazardous substances from your body and/or eyes. An emergency shower can also be used to extinguish flames if your clothes catch fire.
- The shower is activated by pulling the handle down and can usually be turned off by returning the handle to its original position.
- Eyewashes are typically activated by pushing the handle or swinging the eyewash out depending on the type in your lab. To turn off return the handle or eyewash to its original position.
- For chemical exposures the general guidelines are to remove contaminated clothing or contacts and rinse body and/or eyes for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- Use the buddy system while using emergency shower and eyewash.
- Showers are inspected annually by facilities, eyewashes are inspected weekly by the lab.
- Must be accessible within 10 seconds. The areas around the safety shower and eyewash must be kept clear to allow for easy access in case of emergency. Due to the volume of water do not store electrical equipment or water reactive chemicals near these units.
- The type in your lab may vary so please familiarize yourself with the type and location of the safety shower and eyewash in your laboratories.

First Aid Kit
- Should contain basic supplies for the hazards in your lab and be kept in your lab. Items should be in good condition and unexpired.
- Bandages
- Burn cream
- Antiseptic ointment
- Disinfectant rinse
- Exam gloves
- Absorbent compress
- Tape
- Calcium gluconate (for HF)

Spill Kit
- Should contain supplies required to clean a variety of spills
- Absorbents
- Acid neutralizer
- Caustic neutralizer
- Safety glasses/ goggles
- Chemical resistant gloves and other necessary PPE
- Disinfectant
- pH test strips
- Broom and dustpan
- Plastic bags

Fire Extinguisher
- Should be easily located and readily accessible with appropriate signage
- Do not block
- Use the appropriate fire extinguisher for the material burning
- Use the PASS method (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep)
- Inspected monthly with annual maintenance completed by facilities
- Call EHS at 773.702.9999 if an extinguisher is discharged

Information provided by the Office of Research Safety. For questions please e-mail researchsafety@uchicago.edu