

# IMS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Newsletter

August 2022

## Focus on recent incidents – use of Bunsen burners whilst wearing laboratory gloves

A couple of recent incidents in the IMS building highlight the need for greater awareness of our recommendation that gloves should not be worn when using Bunsen burners. This is because many laboratory gloves can catch fire easily and if they should do so it can take time to remove them, and should the gloves melt, they can cause greater injury.

**Please take time to review your experimental protocols and risk assessments to avoid wearing of gloves when using Bunsen burners where at all possible.**

### Inside this issue:

- Focus on recent incidents – gloves and bunsens
- Reminder to review risk assessments
- Thank you to our workstation assessors
- Meet our laser protection supervisor!

## Reminder of Good Laboratory Practice – use of Headphones and mobile phones/tablets

The wearing of personal headphones in laboratory areas and corridors is prohibited (their use is permitted in offices).

Should hand-held phones/tablets be used for laboratory work (such as photography) they should be protected from contamination and not kept in lab coat pockets. They must not be used for making personal calls/texts in the laboratory.

The full list of good laboratory practice is available in the full safety manual, **newly updated for 2022!!**

[https://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/documents/IMS\\_Safety\\_Handbook.pdf](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/documents/IMS_Safety_Handbook.pdf) .

### Contact Information

Safety information and forms can be found online at <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/safety/index.php>

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### Emergency Contact No.

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## Thank you to our Local Workstation Assessors!

The Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team would like to thank all the Local Workstation Assessors who have been helping those individuals who have had issues identified with their workstations following completion of the BeOnline Workstation Assessments. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

## Meet your IMS Laser Protection Supervisor!

I'm Debbie Wilkinson, some of you will know me from the Microscopy and Histology Core Facility but I'm also the Laser Protection Supervisor for the IMS building.

If you have any queries about anything laser based, I'm the person to ask. If you have any equipment coming into the IMS that contains a laser, even if it's just for a short period of time (for a demo for example), you must let me know about it so the details can be added to the Local Laser Safety Rules. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions!

To contact Debbie:

Email: [debbie.wilkinson@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:debbie.wilkinson@abdn.ac.uk)



## Orange jackets hangers in corridors & not signing into IMS: What's the connection?

The mysterious Orange Jackets that recently appeared in IMS corridors are part of the new fire response regime. During alarms, assigned checkers on each floor will don these, and report to the 'Yellow Jacket' at the Assembly Point if rooms are cleared or further assistance is needed. Thanks to the new 'checker' recruits – they allowed us all to stop the sign in/out system during normal work hours. **Remember to continue to sign in/out before 7am or after 7pm, M-F & at any time at the weekends.**