



## Avoiding Fire Code Violations

### What Can I Do to Avoid Fire Code Violations?

The University is required to comply with the fire safety regulations enforced by the Division of Fire Safety (DCA), JCAHO, and other agencies. Non-compliance may result in fire code violations or even loss of accreditation by the JCAHO. The following tips chiefly reflect the most commonly cited violations at the UMDNJ.

Look for these items or conditions in your workplace and contact EOHSS at 2-4812 (Newark) or 5-4058 (all other campuses) for assistance. Please note that this list is not all-inclusive.

### Means of Egress: Obstructions, EXITS, and Exit Access

1. Maintain exits, stairways, egress doors, aisles, corridors and passageways in safe condition, ready for immediate utilization, and free of all obstructions and material storage at all times.
2. Maintain fire alarm pull boxes, fire extinguishers, hose connections, safety showers, eyewashes, and other emergency response equipment free of all obstructions and clearly visible at all times.
3. Clear tables and movable equipment such as display boards, signs, and racks that obstruct the path of egress travel and interfere with fire-fighting access.
4. Do not use doorstops, wedges and other unapproved hold-open devices with fire rated or smoke barrier doors.

### Ceiling Clearances: Material Storage Requirements

1. Maintain at least 18-inch clearance between all material storage and sprinklers.
2. In non-sprinklered areas, maintain at least 24-inch clearance from the ceiling.
3. Replace missing ceiling tiles promptly to ensure proper operation of the smoke/heat detectors and sprinklers.

### Flammable and Combustible Chemical Storage in Laboratories

1. Do not store any (empty or full) chemical bottles or containers on the laboratory floor.
2. Limit the quantity of flammable liquids to ten gallons and combustible liquids to thirty gallons in one laboratory.
3. Use an approved flammable storage cabinet if quantities are approaching the above limits.
4. Consult EOHSS for a safety review if quantities are expected to exceed the above limits.
5. Do not store flammables in standard refrigerator or freezer or cold room.
6. Do not keep peroxide former such as ethers beyond the pre-printed expiration date on the label.
7. Restrict the container size to one gallon for flammable liquids, i.e., liquids with flash point less than one hundred degrees Fahrenheit (except for five gallon original containers).



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### Compressed Gas Cylinders

1. Secure all cylinders (in service or storage, full or empty) adequately with chains to prevent falling or being knocked over. Consult laboratory safety catalogues to select proper securement device, and contact Physical Plant for proper installation.
2. Strictly limit the number of cylinders in a laboratory to a two-month supply. Make every effort to limit the number of cylinders of flammable compressed gas.
3. Store excess cylinders in a separate ventilated room approved for that use.
4. Group different types of gases in a laboratory according to their properties. Keep flammable gases (e.g., acetylene, ethylene oxide, hydrogen) separate from oxidizing gases (e.g., oxygen).
5. Ensure that all cylinders are properly marked with the name of the contained gas.
6. Report any damaged cylinder or valve immediately to EOHSS and the supplier.

### Electrical Safety

1. Replace or report promptly any defective or damaged wiring or equipment.
2. Keep all wiring away from general traffic areas and secure properly to prevent falls/trips.
3. Do not use extension cords as a substitute for permanent wiring.
4. Plug heavy equipment like refrigerator or freezer directly into an outlet.
5. Maintain proper clearances between electrical equipment and hazardous chemical storage.

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### Contact Information:



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(973) 972-4812 ♦ Fax (973) 972-3694

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(732) 235-4058 ♦ Fax (732) 235-5270

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