

Iowa State University

Environmental Health and Safety:

As the new EH&S contact for the Laboratory Safety Partnership, I am looking forward to getting to know you all and understanding the safety needs of the research community here at ISU. I have always been interested in health and safety and earned a B.S. in Nutritional Sciences from Long Beach University, CA and an M.S. in Occupational and Environmental Health from the University of Iowa (sorry Cyclone fans). After working at the University of Massachusetts for the last four years, both as a laboratory manager and a lab safety specialist, I am excited to call Iowa home, where I am closer to good friends and family. I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you around campus and at the annual Lab Safety Partnership forum this fall.



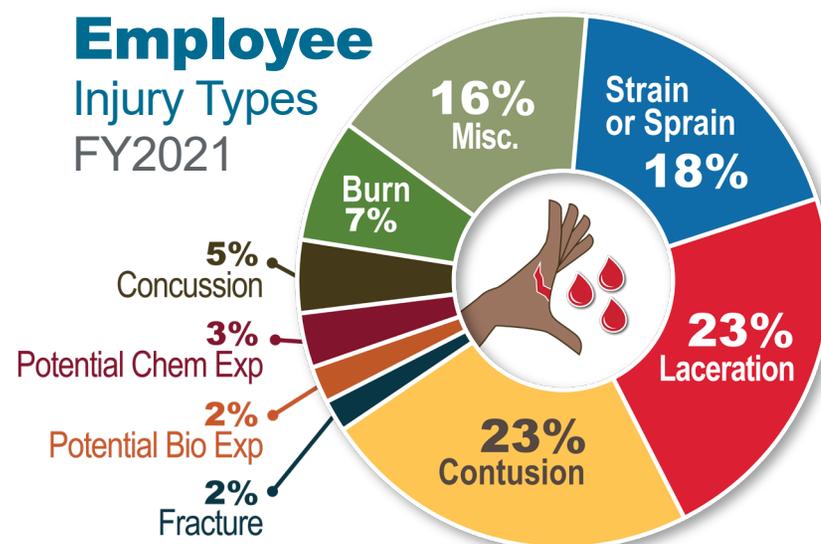
Nikki Brandon, M.S.

Laboratory Safety Specialist

395 total incidents were reported at ISU in FY2021.

10 of these were laboratory related.

Employee Injury Types FY2021



Please continue to report injuries and/or near-misses. This data helps us determine where to focus our safety efforts.

Creating a culture of safety

What can we learn from other institutions?

Featuring: University of Minnesota (UMN)

At UMN, the topic of safety is similar to what many people consider coffee to be; necessary before the start of any meeting. Started by a group of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science graduate students, "[Safety Moments](#)" are 1-2 minute presentations required before the start of any lab meeting or seminar (regardless of your choice in beverage). They can be funny or serious, and take any form the presenter chooses, including:

- One slide lectures
- Activities
- Discussions
- Demonstrations

“It was a totally different way of incorporating safety, not just into the plan of doing research but into the day-to-day activities of doing research.” **Alex Rudd**

Safety Moments are one of many action items described by the Joint Safety Team (JST), an organization of graduate students and postdocs committed to improving safety culture in chemical laboratories at UMN. The formation of the JST was a result of a unique safety partnership with DOW Chemical, where groups from participating Universities were invited to DOW laboratories for two days of safety workshops and facility tours. “It was a totally different way of incorporating safety, not just into the plan of doing research but into the day-to-day activities of doing research,” recalls Alex Rudd, a UMN graduate student, in an [interview with Science Careers](#). The groups returned to their respective institutions with plans to improve their own safety culture. Details of implementing the UMN program are described in an [article](#) published in the Journal of Chemical Education.

LABORATORY SAFETY SURVEYS FY21

Ten most common issues cited among 494 researchers

