Department of Environmental Health and Safety

ROOF WORK NEAR HOOD EXHAUSTS

It is important to minimize worker exposure to potentially hazardous materials emitted from chemical fume hood exhausts when working on building roofs or in penthouses. Although contaminant concentrations tend to be diluted by large volumes of air passing through equipment of this nature, reasonable care should be taken while working on and around fume hood system blowers and ducts.

A. Working Near Fume Hood System Blowers and Ducts

- Supervisors should be notified before and after work is performed. If possible, work should be performed in pairs.
- If work is required 6 feet or fewer from a roof edge, fall protection is required.
- Contact users of hoods with exhausts both in the immediate area and upwind of the required work to schedule hood shut down and request they discontinue use of the hood until work is complete. Shut down the hood(s) and label them as out of service, utilizing proper lockout/tagout procedures to ensure the hood(s) are de-energized.
- Work near energized fume hood systems should be avoided if at all possible. If fume hood systems cannot be shut down, contact EH&S at 294-5359 for recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).

B. Repair/Maintenance of Fume Hood System Blowers and Ducts

For fume hood systems that handle radioactive materials, infectious diseases, or perchloric acids, contact EH&S at 294-5359 before beginning maintenance or repair activities.

- Supervisors should be notified before and after work is performed. If possible, work should be performed in pairs.
- If work is required 6 feet or fewer from a roof edge, fall protection is required.
- Contact the users of all hood(s) connected to the exhaust system needing repair to schedule hood shut down and request they discontinue use of the hood until work is complete. Shut down the hood(s) and label them as out of service, utilizing lockout/tagout procedures to ensure the hood(s) are de-energized. Work on activated fume hood systems must be avoided if at all possible.
- When working on fume hood system fans and ducts, employees must wear safety goggles and heavy-weight rubber or neoprene gloves, at a minimum. Clean gloves and hands immediately after work has been completed. Contact EH&S at 294-5359 if any questions arise during maintenance of system fans and ducts.