

## Lab Safety News:

- ▶ **University of Utah laboratory injuries:** a buildup of safety issues with no resolution  
<https://www.sltrib.com/news/education/2019/05/14/student-burned-his-eye/>
- ▶ **Long before the Max disasters, Boeing had a history of failing to fix safety problems**  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com>
- ▶ **Takeaways:**
  - *Corrective actions are important!*
  - *Follow-up on near misses is critical for preventing future incidents*

## Iowa State University Environmental Health and Safety:

- ▶ **Heat Related Illness training has been added to Learn@ISU**  
<https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/news/ehs-adds-heat-related-illnesses-training-course-catalog>
- ▶ **Provide workers and visitors with up to date safety information using our door sign application**  
<https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/services/occupational/door-signage>
- ▶ **Distribute the Seek Injury Care flowchart to your department**  
<https://www.ehs.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/posters/seekinjurychart.pdf>

## Featuring:

### What is your background/education?

My background is in microbiology, with an emphasis on virology. I have a Master's and Bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, where I studied the immune response to seasonal influenza vaccination in humans. After graduating, I moved to Ames to work for NewLink Genetics where I was part of a team that tried to improve or develop vaccines against seasonal influenza virus, Ebola virus, and Zika virus. I also worked at the ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory where I performed virus isolation on samples submitted from animal species.

### Why did you choose a career in safety?

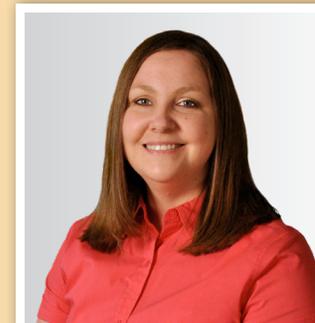
I chose a career in safety because I care about people. I have worked in a laboratory setting for most of my career and have learned a lot about laboratory culture and safety. I desire to apply this knowledge to help others work more safely in the laboratory.

### Give us a fun fact about you.

I put microbiology to use in my free time by making home-made wine.

### What are you most excited for about your job at EH&S?

I am most excited to work with individuals on campus and at EH&S to continue to develop a culture of getting results while maintaining safety for the campus community and the environment.



**Katie Hall**  
EH&S Lab Safety Specialist

### Give us a brief overview of your background/your journey to ISU.

I graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering from ISU in 1998. My first job was as an engineer with The Trane Company (now Ingersoll Rand) in one of their manufacturing facilities. From there, I moved into a sales role with Trane, and then stepped away from the working world as I took time to be a mom to four great kids. In 2011 we were back in Ames and I was hired as lab support in the CBE teaching labs. From there I moved over to a Laboratory Coordinator position with MSE from 2013-2015. I returned to MSE in 2017, and I'm now a Laboratory Supervisor.

### What advice would you give to those that are looking to start a safety program in their department?

First and foremost, the department chair needs to see the value of it and be completely on board. He or she sets the tone for how the researchers in the department will listen to the DLSC. I have been fortunate to work for two different department chairs who have supported my safety efforts 100%. Next, you have to earn the trust of the PI's and let them know that your number one priority is the safety of every person working in a lab in the department. I want our department to produce great research, but we can't do that without safety being a priority. Maintaining good communication and good working relationships with the researchers in each PI's lab is also key. They know that if they have a problem in the labs, they can ask for my help.

### Have you been able to implement safety initiatives with success?

#### Can you identify why they have been well-received?

One safety initiative I've implemented is to give a lab safety talk to every lab course section every semester. The lab instructors have been appreciative that this safety message is coming from the department, as well as from them. When safety is talked about as one of the first things in a lab course, it emphasizes its importance and sets the appropriate tone.



**Michelle Grawe**  
Materials Science & Engineering