Introduction to the Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability and Risk (ESSR)

Miriam Sharp, Ph.D.
Laboratory Safety Manager and Chemical Hygiene Officer
The Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability and Risk (ESSR) was established to provide leadership in the identification and management of safety and environmental risks and to foster safety and sustainability.

ESSR provides safety and regulatory expertise with staff members that are locally and nationally recognized as leaders in their fields.

ESSR staff are ready to provide the highest level of service to the faculty community.
- Inspections
- Training (Including Custom Requests)
- Emergency Response
- Incident Investigations
- Written Program Requirements
- Required Reviews/Approvals
UMD’s Expectations for Conducting Safe Research

Demonstrate a Commitment to Safety. Lead by example. Foster an environment where all students and staff are encouraged and empowered to voice safety questions and concerns.

Assess and Plan for Hazards and Risks. Take the time to systematically assess risks and plan for the hazards identified.

Implement Controls. Take action to control your risks. Establish and enforce safety rules.

Complete Safety Training. Ensure that all researchers, students and staff have the knowledge and the skill to safely perform their activities.

Strive for Continuous Improvement. Managing safety requires ongoing reassessment, feedback, and reinforcement. Encourage reporting of near-misses and incidents, and use these as an opportunity to learn rather than to blame.
ESSR Safety Recommendations for Faculty

1. Know how to report your own injury through Workers’ Compensation and your reporting responsibilities as a supervisor.

2. If there’s an emergency call 301-405-3333 from cell phones, 911 on UMD landlines, or blue light phones outside. We are a total evacuation campus, don’t try to fight a fire. Pull an alarm, evacuate, and report to emergency services.

3. Become familiar with your safety responsibilities as a new PI. ESSR offers new PI and lab set-up consultations. No lab, no problem, field research and other discipline-specific safety consults are also available.