MEMORANDUM

TO: Investigators, Faculty, Lab Directors and Building Liaisons
FROM: Darren Treml, Biological Safety Officer
        Ken Kretchman, Director, Environmental Health & Safety
RE: Guidelines for Gaseous Decontamination
DATE: May 20, 2014

Environmental Health and Safety would like to remind you how important it is to provide sufficient advance notice when planning gaseous decontamination. Recently an investigator’s work had to be postponed because EH&S needed to make last-minute changes to the investigator’s safety protocol to ensure that others in the building were not at risk for exposure to gaseous chemicals.

Because of the acute health effects associated with exposure to gaseous chemicals, any plan to conduct gas decontamination at NC State University must be reviewed with EH&S with enough time to ensure a proper appraisal has been made of the following as a minimum:

- building ventilation;
- potentially affected building occupants including off-hours housekeeping and maintenance workers;
- areas are properly sealed to keep the gas within the space; and
- air monitoring for leakage of toxic gases.

Typically chemical gaseous decontaminations are performed on lab equipment such as biosafety cabinets or incubators. Refer to pages 20-21 of the NC State Laboratory Biosafety Manual (click link) for the gas decontamination checklist.

For questions regarding this notice, please contact Darren Treml, Biological Safety Officer, Environmental Health and Safety, dftreml@ncsu.edu, (919) 515-6858.