

# Emergency Operating Procedure

## Building Evacuation Due to Power Outage

Print a copy and insert into your *Lab-Specific Chemical Hygiene Plan*.

### Section 1 – Lab-Specific Information

<b>Building/Room(s) covered by this SOP:</b>	WTHR, BRWN (all floors)
<b>Department:</b>	Chemistry
<b>Principal Investigator Name:</b>	Christine Hrycyna (Head)
<b>Principal Investigator Signature:</b>	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>

### Section 2 – Hazards

A building-wide power outage directly affects air handling systems, including chemical fume hood operation, ventilated storage cabinets, and air exchangers. Toxic fumes can build up quickly, making it unsafe to remain inside the building. Re-entry into the building is also compromised by the time required for adequate air exchange after power is restored.

### Section 3 – Recommended Protocol for Emergency Procedure

1. All students in lecture halls and teaching labs in WTHR and BRWN should follow fire evacuation procedures, and wait at designated EAAs for first 15 minutes. “Chmbuilding” e-mails and opt-in texts will alert people to evacuate WTHR and BRWN, and also when it is safe to re-enter the buildings.
2. PI’s with laboratories containing active fume hoods must ensure all rooms are evacuated within 15 minutes of a power outage, will all fume hood sashes lowered to minimize hazardous air backflow.
3. If power is restored within 15 minutes of initial outage, an electronic alert will notify people that re-entry is allowed. Classes and labs may resume.
4. If the power restored after the 15-minute mark, a notice of conditional re-entry should be sent, advising people to wait an additional 15 minutes before re-entering rooms with chemical fume hoods. Instructors should be allowed the option of cancelling and rescheduling sessions, in the interest of student safety.
5. If the power outage continues past 1 hour, building deputies must ensure WTHR and BRWN are completely evacuated. Employees should be allowed to leave campus but remain in touch for building status updates.
6. If power is restored after the 1-hour mark, a notice should be sent advising people to wait at least 30 minutes before re-entry. Supervisors should have the option to release personnel for the rest of the day, in the interest of personal health (compromised air quality).