

# LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

## Lab Housekeeping

**Housekeeping is crucial to the success of lab safety as it directly minimizes risks such as trips/falls, spread of illness, and spills.**

**Poor housekeeping can lead to spills, injury, fires, and blocked exits!**

- Reducing clutter provides more space for critical research materials, making it safer to move around the lab without tripping or potential chemical/biological exposure(s). Establish frequent lab clean-out days (quarterly).
- Keep 18" of clearance from fire sprinklers and maintain 36" of aisle space for building safety fire / egress requirements.
- Never block emergency exits, fire extinguishers, safety showers, eyewashes, or electrical panels.
- Service, maintain, or remove broken equipment.
- Do not store glass containers of chemicals and/or wastes on the ground. Do not permanently store chemicals in the fume hood.
- Strong acids and bases shall be separated and stored in secondary containers (e.g., HDPE materials). Use, maintain, and organize flammable safety cabinets for storing large quantities of flammables.
- Ensure extension cords are inspected for damage prior to use, confirm they do not present a tripping hazard, and do not drape cords along the ceiling to provide power to equipment.