

UNM Radioactive Material (RAM) Lab Safety Rules

1. Abide by established laboratory hygiene practices (e.g., no food, drink or smoking in the lab).
2. Store all RAM in designated and properly labeled containers.
3. All RAM waste containers and potentially contaminated equipment must be labeled.
4. Store and transport RAM in a manner to prevent breakage or spillage.
5. Secure RAM at all times when the lab is unoccupied.
6. Keep RAM work areas clean, uncluttered, and organized.
7. Wear assigned whole body and ring dosimeters when working with RAM.
8. Wear lab coats, disposable gloves, and other PPE to avoid contaminating yourself.
9. Line work areas with absorbent material and replace in the event of known or suspected contamination.
10. Use secondary containment (spill trays) when working with radioactive liquids.
11. Use mechanical devices to pipette radioactive solutions.
12. Survey the work area and your entire person after every use of unsealed RAM.
13. In the event of a spill or unintended release of RAM:
 - a. Clear the area of uninvolved persons;
 - b. Tend to any contaminated or injured individuals;
 - c. Contain the spill to prevent further spread;
 - d. Initiate cleanup (if spill is manageable); and
 - e. contact the RSO for assistance and to report the spill.
14. Contact the RSO or designee before removing any potentially contaminated items from the lab.
15. Contact the RSO or designee before doing work in which radionuclides may become airborne.
16. Work over a tray in a fume hood when handling pressurized vials containing radioactive solutions.
17. Surround the rim or cap of pressurized vials with absorbent material before unscrewing or puncturing the rubber septum.

Refer to UNM's Radiation Safety Manual (RSM) for more information on the safe use of licensed RAM:

<https://hsc.unm.edu/research/compliance/radiation-safety/media/radiation-safety-manual.pdf>