

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

I. INTRODUCTION:

Electrical shock hazard is significant in the clinical laboratory due to the severity of the consequences. Immediate death is certainly the greatest risk to poor electrical hygiene but fire is also a consideration.

II. GOALS:

The procedures and regulations that follow are intended to ensure that electrical shock and fire hazards are minimized in the Pathology Department.

III. ENFORCEMENT:

Supervisors and Section Directors are responsible for enforcement of the regulations. Compliance is verified by the Departmental Safety Survey.

IV. REGULATIONS:

1. Electrical equipment must not be used if power cords are frayed or if control switches are not in good working order. If in doubt, contact maintenance or Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Dept. (Biomed) for service.
2. All equipment and hands must be kept dry while in use.
3. Equipment repairs must be performed by qualified personnel. Disconnect power before attempting repairs.
4. Grounding facilities must not be bypassed in any way. Contact Biomed for service before putting ungrounded (i.e. without the 'three prong' plug) equipment into service.
5. The use of 'gang plugs' and extension cords is prohibited (exception: power strips designed for specific instruments - e.g. computers)
6. Equipment must be checked for ground, continuity and integrity on an annual basis (this is performed by Biomed).

7. Outlets must be checked for polarity and grounding on a regular basis (this is performed by Biomed).
8. In case of electrical fire, only use the fire extinguishers marked BC. Water must never be used!
9. If equipment performance is suspect (burning smell, electrical spark, unusual heat etc.) disconnect the power by unplugging (if possible) or throw the switch at the breaker panel (preferably) and contact Biomed for service.
10. Never use both hands to work on or adjust a piece of equipment if electrical shock is possible. Place one hand behind your back (this is to prevent shock across the heart area).