



Radioactive or Radiation-Producing Materials or Equipment

Purpose

This policy ensures that all Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) activities, operations, and procedures involving the use of radioactive materials or radiation-producing equipment are performed in such a way as to protect the users, faculty, staff, students, and the general public from exposure. It also identifies the SFASU Radiation Safety Manual as the authoritative resource for procedures ensuring compliance with this policy.

Persons Affected

This policy protects the users, faculty, students, and the general public from exposure involving the use of radioactive materials or radiation-producing equipment.

Definitions

Radiation Safety Officer: an individual who has a knowledge of, and the authority and responsibility to apply appropriate radiation protection rules standards, and practices, and who must be specifically authorized on a certificate of registration or radioactive material license.

Radiation-producing equipment: includes, but is not limited to diffraction x-ray, fluorescence, bone densitometers, medical x-ray, industrial x-ray, atomic absorption, and lasers.

Radioactive materials: Any material (solid, liquid, or gas) that emits ionizing radiation spontaneously.

Policy

The radiation safety program at SFASU is regulated by the Texas Department of State Health Services and requires all university employees and students who receive, possess, use, transfer, or acquire any radioactive material or radiation-producing equipment to comply with the regulations detailed in UTS 174 Environmental Health and Safety, Texas Administrative Code § 289 and the Texas Health & Safety Code Ch. 401 (Texas Radiation Control Act).

SFASU employees and students must also comply with the procedures described in the SFASU Radiation Safety Manual, which contains the general procedures adopted by the university for the safe use of radioactive materials and radiation-producing equipment in teaching and research, and can be found on the Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management (EHSRM) website.

Authorization for the use of any licensed or registered radiation source or equipment is conditional upon complete compliance with federal and state regulations, license conditions, training requirements, and with the policies and procedures promulgated by the EHSRM department. Authorized radiation users and their locations must be designated on the radiation license and registrations issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Responsibilities



The Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management is responsible for the radiation safety program at SFASU, and the radiation safety officer (RSO) is responsible for the daily implementation of the radiation safety program in accordance with license/registration conditions and regulatory requirements. Duties of the RSO include:

- Oversee the purchase, receipt, storage, use, and disposal of radioactive or radiation producing materials or equipment;
- Ensure the most current legal requirements are identified and evaluated for compliance;
- Comply with all University of Texas System risk assessment requirements including, but not limited to U.T. System institution peer reviews;
- Establish, coordinate, and adhere to the radiation safety procedures outlined in the university's radiation safety manual, to comply with regulatory requirements;
- Inspect university laboratories and work areas where radioactive materials or radiation-producing equipment are used for regulatory compliance and worker protection, or in response to a notice of a possible violation (in carrying out this duty, the RSO or designated representative shall have the authority to enter any university building, structure, room, office, or laboratory without any need to give prior notice to department supervisors and staff);
- Assist Authorized Users with meeting radiation safety training requirements; and
- Serve as the official university contact for federal and state regulatory agencies including but not limited to United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) regarding radiation safety compliance and to communicate compliance requirements to university officials.

University employees and students must:

- Comply with all license and registration requirements, regulations, programs, and procedures specified by the RSO and the EHSRM department;
- Attend all required radiation safety training courses and use all required protective equipment, engineering controls, and safety precautions described in the radiation safety manual;
- Handle all radioactive sources, radiation-producing equipment, and radioactive waste in accordance with the radiation safety manual and applicable state regulations;
- Report all spills to the authorized user who is responsible for containment and clean-up actions in responding to spills and emergencies; and
- Notify the RSO of all incidents involving radioactive materials and radiation-producing equipment and report non-compliance issues or concerns.

University departments are responsible for the payment of fees associated with state licenses, registrations, and the disposal of radioactive waste and/or equipment containing radiation sources.

Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards

Tex. Health & Safety Code Ch. 401

25 Tex. Admin. Code § 289



UTS 174 Environmental Health and Safety

SFA HOP 05-301 Best Value Procurement (17.1)

SFASU Radiation Safety Manual

Responsible Executive

Vice President for Finance and Administration
Radiation Safety Office
Department of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management

Forms

Statement of Training and Agreement with Policies and Procedures; Leak-Test and Inventory Record.

Revision History

September 1, 2023 (original)