

An emeritus professor, hoping to continue research at a later date, moved laboratory chemicals into their personal residence for storage.

### What happened?

After losing research space in a University owned facility, an emeritus professor decided to remove research samples and laboratory chemicals to their personal residence in the hope that they would be able to resume their research work at a later date. After a period of 10 years had elapsed it became obvious that further research was no longer possible. The researcher decided to call their former department who in turn contacted EHS to assist in the proper disposition of the unwanted hazardous materials. The stored chemicals included, toxic materials, oxidizers, corrosives, radioactive materials, and flammables. Chemicals were not stored under proper conditions. All chemicals were collected and returned to the University by EHS personnel, characterized and either reused or packaged for proper disposal.



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### Lessons Learned:

Laboratory chemicals must never be removed from campus to a personal residence. Policy prohibits removal of University chemicals from campus to avoid:

- Theft or diversion
- Incidents while transporting chemicals to residence
- Incidents while chemicals are stored at the residence including, but not limited to, increased fire hazards, potential exposure of family members or neighbors, damage to property, and negative environmental impacts
- Exposure when chemicals are used in an uncontrolled, ill-prepared setting like a garage or garden shed
- General risk and liability to the researcher and the University
- Risk of individuals potentially seeking to perform destructive or nefarious behavior.
- Uncontrolled or improper disposal of unwanted hazardous materials

When closing or moving a laboratory, proper closeout procedures must be followed. For more information and to view the lab relocation/closeout checklist visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y25a9ykm>