

UAB SAFETY SHORT

With 90°+ days fast approaching, shorts, tee shirts, and sandals are a must if you spend your time outdoors. However, UAB Environmental Health and Safety would like to remind you that it's crucial to adopt a different approach when stepping into the laboratory environment. Prioritizing proper attire is of paramount importance to minimize potential injuries and exposures in case of unexpected incidents.

To ensure your safety within the lab, regardless of outdoor weather conditions, personal attire worn in the laboratory should ALWAYS provide full coverage of the legs, feet, and torso. The basic "ensemble" consists of wearing long pants/skirt, closed-toed shoes made of nonabsorbent material and tying back long hair. Sadly, the shorts and sandals that make our Alabama summers more bearable do not provide the protection necessary for safe work around potentially hazardous materials. Along with proper attire, the donning of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as a lab coat or disposable gown, as indicated by your laboratory's PPE Assessment Form, should be worn. This practice is not just for your own well-being but also to safeguard the integrity of your research. If you come across instances of noncompliance, it's advisable to remind your colleagues and engage in discussions with your PI or lab manager.

Here is a practical tip for scorching summer days: consider carrying along long pants and closed-toe shoes to change into upon reaching the laboratory. Alternatively, storing an affordable set of scrubs and work shoes in your desk or gym bag can provide a solution. This way, you can remain comfortable outdoors while upholding the requisite safety standards crucial for laboratory work.

Please see the attached flyers that address both proper personal lab attire and appropriate PPE.

You must have access to the PPE listed on the "Minimum PPE to Enter Lab" flyer and may be questioned by EH&S if you are working at the lab bench without it.