

# UAB SAFETY SHORT

## Please Keep Laboratory Doors Closed

Propping open laboratory doors is a common habit in research labs, often for the convenience of moving between labs. The use of doorstops, wedges, or other types of hold-open devices are not permitted by UAB EHS-Campus Safety and in accordance with applicable fire codes. Doors that are designed to self-close must be allowed to close without any obstructions.

Additionally, the ventilation designs of campus laboratory buildings are designed to maintain negative pressure, with air flowing from the corridor into the lab and being exhausted outside. This design relies on the lab door being closed. When the door is open, the air balance between the lab and the corridor is easily disrupted, potentially allowing hazardous chemical vapors or biological aerosols to escape into hallways.

If the temperature in a lab is too hot or cold, the Facilities Division should be contacted promptly to address the issue. You can submit work orders online [here](#). If doorstops or wedges are used to accomplish tasks such as moving furniture or materials through the doorways, they must be promptly removed once the task is completed.

UAB EH&S has started documenting incidents as they arise and will escalate the matter if it persists. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring the safety of UAB staff, students, and visitors.