



Children in High Hazard Areas

Introduction:

These guidelines have been established to protect the health and well-being of children from exposure to **high hazard areas** at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). A high hazard area is defined as any area where any of the following activities or items are present:

- Hazardous chemicals (carcinogens, teratogens, toxins, corrosives, etc.)
- Infectious agents (biohazards)
- Radioactive material
- Physical hazards (cutting hazards, falling hazards, hydraulic equipment, etc.)

Access to University premises, identified as high hazard areas, shall be limited to AUTHORIZED University staff and students or other persons on official University-related business. Measures should be taken to assure that persons entering these areas be appropriately trained, adequately protected from hazards, and informed about the safety and emergency procedures relevant to their activities.

Please note the following age restrictions for children:

- Children 14 years of age and younger are prohibited from entering any high hazard areas.
 - Children ages 15-17 may be allowed in a high hazard area if they are under constant supervision of a **responsible official**. A responsible official is defined as an individual accountable for the activities in a high hazard area, such as a laboratory manager or plant supervisor. The responsible official must ensure that these individuals are aware of the required health and safety precautions needed to safely work in a high hazard area. [This training must be done prior to granting access to a high hazard area.] The responsible official, with guidance from the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS), must assure that health and safety procedures, as well as safety equipment, are appropriate before granting approval for these individuals to enter a high hazard area.
- * Note that these guidelines can be appropriately modified for children who are formally enrolled in a University class or program with a laboratory component.

Procedures for Children in High Hazard Areas:

The following is required when children enter high hazard areas, such as teaching and research laboratories, art studios, backstage theatre areas, mechanical rooms, shops, equipment rooms, and farms.

A. Tours for admissions and recruitment purposes.

Children may enter high hazard areas as part of a tour for admissions or recruitment purposes. Tours must be conducted with permission of the faculty member responsible for the area and the department chair or designee. The faculty member shall be responsible for proper supervision and any appropriate personal protective equipment for visitors.

B. When the child is participating in a University sponsored activity or event which lasts less than one day.

The following is required:

- Organizer of the event will notify OEHS about the program and discuss procedures to protect health and safety of individuals (prior to the activity or event).
- Organizer of the event will request information about hazards from the sponsoring department (prior to the activity or event).
- Sponsoring department chair or designee will assure proper supervision of children.
- Organizer of the event will collect the attached **permission slips** signed by parent or guardian before the child's participation.
- Sponsoring department will furnish any protective equipment necessary for health and safety of participants.
- Sponsoring department will report any incidents to OEHS promptly.

C. Internship, volunteer work, or participation in a University sponsored program under the supervision of an individual faculty member(s) which lasts more than one day.

The following is required:

- Sponsoring department chair or designee will notify OEHS about the program and discuss procedures with OEHS to protect health and safety of individuals prior to the child's participation. These procedures will include identification of hazards, procedures to minimize exposure to hazards, safety equipment, personal protective equipment, and required training.
- Sponsoring department chair or designee will provide information about hazards to parent or guardian before the child's participation.
- Sponsoring department chair or designee will collect **permission slips** signed by parent or guardian before the child's participation
- Sponsoring department chair or designee will assure proper supervision of children.
- Sponsoring department chair or designee will furnish any protective equipment necessary for health and safety of the child.
- The child must receive laboratory safety training and other specialized training as required for other hazardous materials (e.g., radiation, biohazardous and/or hazardous waste) prior to entering a high hazard area.
- The child must have appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment before entering a high hazard area.
- The sponsoring department chair or designee will assure that each child has filed the appropriate youth employment certificates to comply with applicable state and federal labor laws. This information is available from the UNH Office of Human Resources.

**PERMISSION FORM FOR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY
SPONSORED ACTIVITY IN HIGH HAZARD AREA (PAGE 1)**

I _____, the **PARTICIPANT**, and we the **PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)** of the **PARTICIPANT**, a minor, request permission for the **PARTICIPANT** to engage in the following activity sponsored by the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in facilities connected with the Department of _____ at UNH on _____:

I. NATURE OF THE EVENT OR ACTIVITY

(This section is to be completed by the person responsible for organizing the activity or event.)

This event or activity entails the following activity: _____

This activity will commence on _____ and conclude on _____.

II. RISKS INVOLVED AND GRANTING OF PERMISSION

This event or activity *may* be taking place in a high hazard area. The **PARTICIPANT** has the potential to be exposed to:

- Hazardous chemicals (e.g., carcinogens, teratogens, toxins, corrosives)
- Infectious agents (e.g., biohazards)
- Radioactive material (e.g., radioactive sources)
- Physical hazards (e.g., cutting hazards, falling hazards, hydraulic equipment).
- Other hazards: _____

Although accidents and injuries are unlikely at the University, there is, nevertheless, a chance that an accident or injury may occur. To minimize this risk, appropriate health and safety measures, such as safety glasses, laboratory coats, and protective gloves, will be used when such hazards are present.

We understand, appreciate, and acknowledge there is a risk of injury from using the University facilities and equipment as set forth above, including the potential for serious injury and death. In complete understanding of these risks, we hereby grant permission for the **PARTICIPANT** to engage in these activities.

III. RELEASE

Further, in consideration of the opportunity for the **PARTICIPANT** to engage in these activities and to use University facilities and equipment, we - the **PARTICIPANT** and his or her **PARENT(S)** or **GUARDIAN(S)** - on behalf of ourselves, our agents, heirs and next of kin, hereby release UNH and its employees and agents and other volunteers from any responsibility or liability for any and all claims arising from the **PARTICIPANT'S** personal injury, including death, and damage to or loss of personal property, due to negligence, INCLUDING NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS ON THE PART OF UNH, ITS STAFF, OR VOLUNTEERS, or to accidental occurrences while the **PARTICIPANT** is using UNH's facilities and equipment.

**PERMISSION FORM FOR CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY
SPONSORED ACTIVITY IN HIGH HAZARD AREA (PAGE 2)**

IV. INSURANCE

We understand that UNH does not maintain health or accident insurance for the **PARTICIPANT** in this activity. We therefore certify that, for the period of time the **PARTICIPANT** is engaging in the activities described here, we will maintain health and/or accident insurance coverage that will cover any personal injury he/she may sustain while using University facilities and equipment, regardless of cause, and we agree to provide proof of such insurance upon request.

Further, UNH may seek to recover, and we agree to pay, the costs to replace or repair any equipment or other University property damaged by the **PARTICIPANT** while using the facilities.

V. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

In the event of an emergency involving the **PARTICIPANT**, please notify us at the following telephone number(s):

_____;

I have read carefully and understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this release.

PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURES:

By: _____
Mother's Signature Father's Signature Guardian's signature

Print Name: Print Name Print Name

Address: _____

Date: _____

Please send a completed copy of this form to Human Resources and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety:

UNH Human Resources
Attn: Deb Carr
2 Leavitt Lane
Durham, NH 03824
Fax: 603-862-0517

UNH OEHS
Attn: David Gillum
11 Leavitt Lane
Durham, NH 03824
Fax: 603-862-0047