

Lack of Proper Ventilation in Areas with Chemicals

Situation: EHS was notified of a report submitted to Human Resources by an employee alleging that the airflow in their chemical storage rooms was inadequate and that there was often strong chemical odors in the rooms due to the inadequate airflow.

Cause: The HVAC system was not working properly. The lack of temperature control in the chemical storage rooms was subjecting the chemicals to a wide range of temperatures, which was contributing to the poor air quality within the rooms.

Corrective Action: EHS submitted a work order to have the HVAC system repaired immediately.

Prevention: Ensure ventilation is working properly before beginning work with hazardous chemicals. If you suspect your HVAC system is not working properly, contact FM and EHS for an evaluation of the system.

References: UNM *Chemical Hygiene Plan*