

SECTION	I.	General
Chapter	1.	Introduction
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INTRODUCTION

The Policy of Duke University is to take every reasonable precaution in the performance of work to protect the health and safety of staff, students and visitors, and to prevent property damage.

No employee at Duke is required to perform a task that he or she considers unsafe, nor is any employee to knowingly commit an unsafe act. An optimum safe environment can be achieved most effectively by early identification and understanding of safety issues; close interaction among managers, employees, students, Employee Occupational Health Service, and the Occupational and Environmental Safety Office; and adherence to the policy and guidance of this manual.

The concept of “reasonably achievable” takes into consideration programmatic requirements and limitations of resources, and extends beyond simple compliance with basic regulations. With respect to hazardous agents, this protection is provided by limiting exposures of persons to levels that are AS LOW AS REASONABLY ACHIEVABLE (ALARA). The ALARA objective is achieved by integrating management involvement, education and training, facility design, safety procedures, workplace monitoring, emergency preparedness, program evaluation, and benefit vs. risk analysis.

This manual is intended to set forth the safety policies for Duke University. It is understood that we have many diverse types of work environments. This manual is not intended to be a procedures manual for every environment; rather it should be used for general guidance. Specific hazardous conditions require specific control procedures that must be prepared by those having ownership of the hazard.

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