

First Aid Kits in the Greenhouses

FACT SHEET

The SHEM Steering Committee sub-committee tasked with reviewing the first aid kits in the greenhouses, recommends as a best management safety practice having first aid kits readily available.

This fact sheet is for greenhouse managers, supervisors and/or primary contacts for first aid kits in the greenhouse area. It includes helpful information to maintain first aid kits in greenhouse areas, as well as train and notify greenhouse staff and users on the first aid kits.

Requirements

Cornell's guidance on first aid kits can be found on the Cornell Environmental Health and Safety web site under [Cornell Environmental Health and Safety Lab Safety Manual 5.3.3 First Aid Kits](https://ehs.cornell.edu/manuals/laboratory-safety-manual-and-chemical-hygiene-plan/chapter-5-emergency-preparation/53-2) (<https://ehs.cornell.edu/manuals/laboratory-safety-manual-and-chemical-hygiene-plan/chapter-5-emergency-preparation/53-2>)

The language came from OSHA 1910.151 and ANSI Z308.1-2003. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is an agency of the United States Department of Labor. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is a government agency that develops standards that are not regulations and are considered recommendations.

Advisement of the policy, specifically for the greenhouse areas, came from Brenda Coolbaugh (blc32), Laboratory Safety Specialist and Chemical Hygiene Officer, Cornell Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

Applying the Cornell policy on first aid kits in the greenhouse areas:

1. The responsible person, according to OSHA 1910.151(b) *"in the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid. Adequate first aid supplies shall be readily available"*.
 - a. As the Cornell Ithaca campus does have access to immediate emergency assistance, it is not mandated to have a first aid kit in the greenhouses per the standard and the OSHA 1910 Subpart K, Appendix A.
 - b. Field work potentially has additional hazards (use of heavy equipment, etc.) and may have limitations to getting fast emergency response (cell phone service, remote locations, etc.) These areas should have trained persons with the appropriate contents in the first aid kit to the hazards of the work.
 - c. Outlying facilities are able to obtain First Aid training in their community. Courses can be coordinated through the local Red Cross.
2. The trained responsible person is the same as above. First Aid training is provided live by EHS. The course number is EHS 5360 – AHA Heartsaver First Aid. Training can be scheduled by emailing askEHS@cornell.edu.
3. Maintaining the kit is the responsibility of the greenhouse manager or their designee. Some departments have a contract with a vendor to refill kit supplies monthly, but this can be costly. EHS has a student employee do a periodic inventory of their kits and gives that information to

an Administrator for ordering and refilling. It is up to the greenhouse manager to decide what maintenance method to use.

Greenhouse Hazards/Injuries: that would require items from a first aid kit

Hazard	Injury
Sharp bench edges, broken glass	Cuts, incision, puncture, lacerations, abrasions
Slipping	Contusion, fracture, strain, sprain
Bench or door pinches (rolling benches)	Contusions, bruises
Autoclaves	Burns
Dust	Eyes, respiratory
Fertilizers, Pesticides, Sanitizers and cleaning products	Eyes, respiratory
Hot work conditions	Heat Stresses- cramps, rash, exhaustion, stroke
Wood, stakes	Slivers

Injury Categories	
Abrasion	Fracture
Bruising/contusions	Heat stresses- cramps, rash, exhaustion, stroke
Burns	Incision
Crushing injuries	Laceration
Cuts	Punctures
Eye injuries	Sprain
Ear injuries	Strain

Recommended First Aid Kit Contents/Supplies for Greenhouse First Aid Kits

1 Absorbent compress, minimum 4 x 8 in.	Assorted knuckle bandages
5 yards adhesive tape	6 burn treatment applications, 1/32 oz. each
10 Antiseptic applications, .14 fl. oz. each (alcohol wipes)	16 2 x 4 ½ inch adhesive bandage strips
1 roll gauze bandage	Assorted sterile gauze pads (3 or 4- 4x4, 2- 6x6)
16 adhesive bandages, 1 x 3 inches	Tweezers (metal) with small magnifying glass
2 pair medical exam gloves (non-latex)	Scissors
4 sterile pads, 3 x 3 inches minimum	Tweezers (metal) with small magnifying glass
Instant cold packs/compresses	Kit contents inventory inside
Emergency contact info (911, campus police, facility address and facility emergency contact information) on outside of kit	

Resources for First Aid Kit Contents:

<http://www.mayoclinic.org/first-aid/first-aid-kits/basics/art-20056673>

<http://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/anatomy-of-a-first-aid-kit>

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9863

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/medicalfirstaid/index.html>

First Aid Kits Inventory Replenishing

Maintaining the kit is the responsibility of the greenhouse area. Old, unused first aid kits with outdated/expired contents should be removed or replaced. For guidance with removal and/or replacement of outdated/expired contents contact the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) Occupational and Environmental Health (OE H) Office. CAL S OE H Contact information: 607-255-0485, 607-255-6978, <https://oeh.cals.cornell.edu/> .

A trained, responsible person should be designated for maintaining and replenishing the inventory in all first aid kits in your greenhouse area. It is up to the manager to decide who and how it's done. See *"Applying the Cornell policy on first aid kits in the greenhouse area" #3 above.*

A current inventory should be in all first aid kits in your greenhouse area.

First aid kits in your greenhouse area should also be kept clean inside and out.

SHEM First Aid Kit Quarterly Reminder

The SHEM Coordinator will send the greenhouse managers a quarterly reminder to check and verify the contents, inventory and signage information for all the first aid kits in their greenhouse area. The manager, if not the one maintaining the kits, will forward the reminder to the responsible person.

Accessibility for First Aid Kits

All first aid kits in the greenhouse area should be readily available, including to those working after regular hours.

If a first aid kit is not located near the greenhouse entrance, a sign should be placed near the entrance indicating where the kit(s) are located.

First Aid Kit Signs

All first aid kits in the greenhouse area should have a sign on or directly near the kits. The information on the first aid kits should include the following:

- Emergency contact information
- Current contact information for first aid kit maintenance designee

First Aid Kit Location Signs

Signs should be posted indicating the location of the first aid kits in the greenhouse area. An ideal location for the signs would be at the entrances to the greenhouse hallway.

Include the following information as appropriate to the greenhouse area:

- The location of all first aid kits in the greenhouse area
- Directions on how to get to the kits from where the sign is
- Optional: a map with a picture of the kits

Commercial signs are available through the following vendors:

- SafetySign.com <http://www.safetysign.com>
- Gempler's <https://www.gemplers.com>
- My Safety Sign <https://www.mysafetysign.com>

Recommended Training

A good practice for new staff and users would be to give them a tour of the first aid kit locations in the greenhouse area.

Training tools that already incorporate first aid kit training:

- [New Employee Safety Orientation Checklist](https://oeh.cals.cornell.edu/sites/oeh.cals.cornell.edu/files/shared/documents/health-safety/NewEmpOrient%202018.pdf) found on the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) Occupational and Environmental Health (OEH) web site Health and Safety page (<https://oeh.cals.cornell.edu/sites/oeh.cals.cornell.edu/files/shared/documents/health-safety/NewEmpOrient%202018.pdf>)

Training tools where first aid kit training can be incorporated:

- Greenhouse manager new staff orientation
- Greenhouse manager new user orientation and handouts