



## **Safe Method of Use 8**

### **Power Failures – Instructions to Laboratory Personnel**

**Purpose:** This Safe Method of Use applies to **principal investigators (PIs), sector managers, designated laboratory person (DLPs)**, technical staff and students who use laboratories within the University of Auckland.

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**The University recognizes that laboratory operations can pose a significant risk to building occupants in the event of an extended power failure where the laboratory building ventilation system is not operational. In many cases these buildings will be formally closed**

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#### **A. When Power Outage Occurs**

**When power outage occurs during normal work hours the following should be attended to. In some instances, emergency lighting may be insufficient to allow all the following tasks to be achieved. Therefore it may only be possible to safely achieve high priority tasks such as extinguishing sources of ignition.**

- Secure all hazardous experiment. Make sure that any experiments in progress are stabilized and discontinued.
- Securely cap all chemical containers, extinguish all flames, close gas valves, store cultures and secure radioactive materials.
- Completely close the sash of each fume hood in your lab.
- Power off equipment (particularly heating or vacuum equipment) that could result damage is unattended when power is restored.
- It is particularly important to power down equipment with unprotected micro-circuitry that could be damaged when power is resumed.
- Check any equipment on emergency power. To prevent overload of emergency circuits, non-essential Items should be disconnected during a power interruption.
- Exit the lab and close all interior lab doors to reduce spread of fugitive emissions and reduce fire risk.

#### **B. When the Power Returns**

- Reset/restart/check equipment.

- Keep the fume hood sashes closed and do not use the hood until you are sure the hood exhaust system is working and in the case of newer hoods the prepurge cycle is complete. If your fume hood extraction has not automatically re-started, call Property Services.