

# RAM Safety Source

*All things related to research safety culture at CSU*

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t. [@RamSafeResearch](https://twitter.com/RamSafeResearch)  
p. 970-491-2015



Solving the COVID-19 pandemic is a significant undertaking. Watch how a subset of the total number of researchers that contributed to COVID-19 research at CSU mobilized their disciplines over the course of the past year to address challenges raised by the global pandemic.

CSU is a research powerhouse, consistently counted among the top-performing research universities in the nation – each year for the past decade posting more than \$300 million in expenditures. Our researchers are leaders in atmospheric science, energy, water, veterinary and translational medicine, natural resources, chemistry, occupational therapy, and anthropology, and with ongoing and traditional strength in areas such as engineering and food production.



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# **Scott Safety Day**

**Presented by the Scott Bioengineering Safety Team**

**10am May 20th, for access**

**Email [Abby.Ward@colostate.edu](mailto:Abby.Ward@colostate.edu)**

**What do I do if there is an emergency? Someone is hurt?  
Biological exposure? Chemical spill?**

**Who can I talk to about safety? Do I need to report something? I think I did something wrong...what now?**



**Panelists:**

**Rebecca Moritz - Biosafety Director**

**Jim Abraham - Radiation Safety Officer**

**Chris Giglio - Chemical Management Officer**

**Frank Gonzales - Ergonomics & AED/CPR Manager**

**Anthony Appleton - Research Safety Culture Coordinator**

# Safety Champions:

**Susan DeLong, Carol Wilusz, and Heather Pidcoke**

## **The Predictive Power of Poop: COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance to Inform Public Health Decisions in Colorado**

**From the March 26, 2021 Genome Webinar sponsored by Bio-Rad**

From Left to Right: Susan De Long, PhD Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; Carol Wilusz, PhD Professor, Microbiology, Immunology & Pathology, Director, Molecular Quantification Core, Director, Cell & Molecular Biology Graduate Program; Heather Pidcoke, MD, MSCI, PhD Chief Medical Research Officer



Wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) has been established as a viable, valuable, and cost-effective means to monitor infectious diseases within a community.

In this [webinar](#), a team of scientists from Colorado State University (CSU) will describe their experiences building a successful wastewater surveillance system from the ground up for use as a state-wide system to monitor viral loads in wastewater.

The CSU team worked with GTMolecular, a RIC tenant, to develop and validate a method to concentrate and extract SARS-CoV-2 RNA from wastewater samples provided by wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) or collected from sewers on the CSU campus. Levels of SARS-CoV-2 are quantified using digital droplet PCR assays.

Using this method, the CSU team tracked trends in viral load over time for 21 Colorado WWTPs and connected this information to the area covered by each WWTP to inform public health decisions. They also monitored SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater from 20 locations, including CSU dormitories and off-campus shared living facilities.

The CSU scientists will discuss how this micro-surveillance approach allowed scarce testing resources to be allocated where risk was highest, helped detect outbreaks early through directed clinical testing of residents, and identified targets for compliance efforts.

They will also describe the interface of wastewater surveillance with university and local public health initiatives and speculate about the future for WBE in detecting and curbing infectious disease outbreaks.

# Green Labs:

## Where Research Sustainability Meets Safety



**GREEN LABS**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

By Leah Wolff from [March 24, 2021 SOURCE](#)

To bring more visibility to the intersection of sustainability and research safety at Colorado State University, Campus Energy Coordinator Stacey Baumgarn, and Research Safety Culture Program Coordinator Anthony Appleton, have partnered to expand the CSU Green Labs programs and create a [new website](#) to showcase its current offerings.

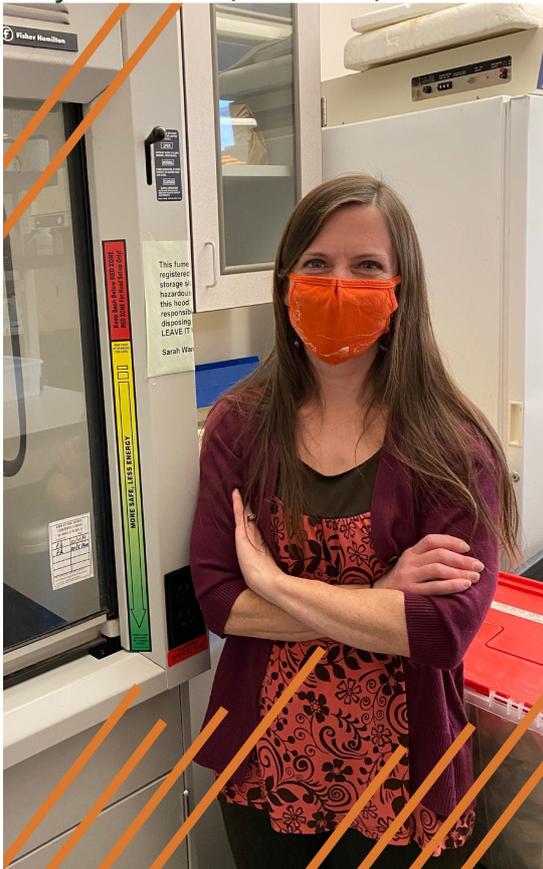
Baumgarn launched the first CSU Green Labs initiative in 2015. It now includes the International Laboratory Freezer Challenge, Shut the Sash campaign, training modules, and an ambassador program, with additional programs to be added in the future.

The CSU Green Labs program is an important component of the broader sustainability initiatives at CSU. According to Baumgarn, labs are the most energy-, water- and resource-intensive spaces on campus, and incentives have been an effective way to engage researchers in programs to decrease waste and increase efficiency.

“People always ask, ‘What actions can I take to become part of sustainability on campus?’” Baumgarn said. “Well, if you work in a lab, think of the Green Labs programs. When one person learns about and adopts a more sustainable practice and improves safety simultaneously, it makes a difference and helps to advance sustainability at CSU.”

Read more [here](#).

### Emily Hudson-Arns, Mason Lab, Plant Sciences



## Green Labs: Integrating Sustainability and Research

RESEARCH  
SAFETY CULTURE

- Shut the Sash Campaign
- Money for Efficiency Improvements
- Many other ways to get involved!

*In partnership with Facilities Management  
and researchers like you*



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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



# NEW Emergency Door Postings

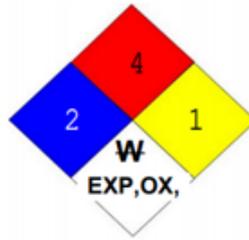
If you see a new posting on your door and would like to make changes, please contact [EHS@colostate.edu](mailto:EHS@colostate.edu).  
PPE & Custodial Requirements can be changed.

Example Posting

## General Services Building

004

PPE REQUIRED  
BEYOND THIS POINT



CAUTION/DANGER  
RADIOACTIVE  
MATERIAL



Beta  
β



Safety Glasses



Lab Coat



Full Coverage  
Feet and Legs



Gloves



NFPA Ratings are based on your chemical inventory. Questions about the new chemical acquisition and management system? Visit the [EHS Chemical Management Unit](#) webpage.



**NO FOOD OR DRINK ALLOWED**

**ADMITTANCE TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY**

CONTACT	NAME	OFFICE PHONE	EMERGENCY PHONE
PI			
Manager			
Alternate			

EMERGENCY OR AFTER HOURS - 911, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES 491-6745

**Please check CONTACT INFORMATION.  
This MUST ALWAYS be up-to-date!**

If you do NOT have a new Emergency Door Posting, please contact [EHS@colostate.edu](mailto:EHS@colostate.edu).

# Safety Story: Cryogen Safety

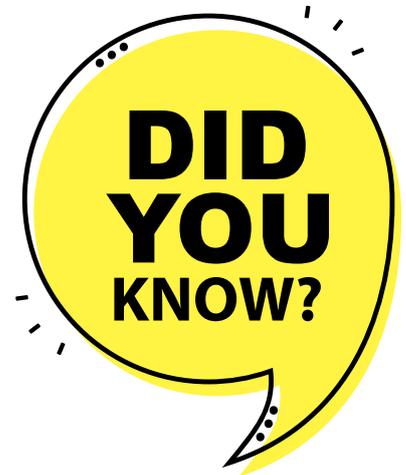
## The Atlanta Journal Constitution:

### A deadly day at a Georgia poultry plant, an aching aftermath by Joshua Sharpe

An excerpt from the [article](#): A line carrying nitrogen, often used to flash-freeze meat, had ruptured, releasing a frigid, odorless cloud. It spread like morning fog, killing six employees on Jan. 28. In this hilly North Georgia city at the heart of the state's dominant poultry industry, they buy nitrogen by the 18-wheeler. **Liquid nitrogen can displace the oxygen in the air, cause asphyxiation or cold burns.**

Grief rains on Gainesville, a town where almost everybody knows somebody with time in at a poultry plant, and so many know someone who worked at the Foundation Food Group, Inc. facility where the leak happened.

Those lost were a beloved group. They included a man who toiled to send money to his mother in Mexico, religious and determined people pounding out a better lot, a gregarious military veteran who trained horses, and men who bought their wives flowers at Nena's Florist near the plant. Nearly all had young children.



#### EHS Cryogen Safety Fact Sheet



Do you have an idea or would like to contribute to the RAM Safety Source?

Please contact

[anthony.appleton@colostate.edu](mailto:anthony.appleton@colostate.edu)



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COVID-19 RECOVERY

"A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for."

– Grace Hopper