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Fact Sheet: First Aid Kits

If a Department, Lab or Center (DLC) chooses to have first aid kits in labs, machine shops or other work spaces to treat minor incidental injuries, then there are some additional requirements to address outlined in this guidance. As indicated in [OSHA \(29 CFR 1910.151\)](#), because medical attention can be reached within a reasonable time on the MIT Campus, it is acceptable in most instances to rely on this if first aid is needed and make that part of an emergency plan.

In the event of medical emergencies, call (617) 253-1212 or dial 100 from any MIT phone. Injured personnel not requiring emergency assistance can call MIT's Medical Department Urgent Care in E23 at 617-253-1311. An injury report must be completed when a first aid kit is used due to an injury/illness: <https://ehs.mit.edu/workplace-safety-program/occupational-injury-or-illness-reporting>.

Always seek medical help by calling (617) 253-1212 or 100 from any MIT phone if you are not sure of severity of the injury or appropriate care.

Work Environments with Specific Health Hazards

Work environments with specific potential health hazards such as Hydrofluoric Acid should be equipped with appropriate emergency equipment, and, in certain limited cases, with medical supplies that are readily available and lab personnel trained for immediate application. Contact the EHS Office at 617-452-3477 for a hazard assessment and possible recommendation for such special supplies.

For a medical emergency and treatment for a confirmed or suspected cyanide exposure, we rely on emergency responders by dialing 100 or 617-253-1212 immediately to reach MIT Campus Police (CP). CP will request a Cambridge Fire Department Paramedic Company ambulance service equipped with a CYANOKIT for first aid treatment of cyanide poisoning. See the EHS Laboratory Use of Cyanide Salts Guidelines here: <https://ehs.mit.edu/chemical-safety-program/chemicals/>

DLC Responsibilities

DLCs are responsible for purchasing, securing, maintaining and keeping complete first aid kits. When choosing a first aid kit, consider the risks that are present, the potential severity and likelihood of an incident, the number of employees or students, and the physical layout of the space. Consider the remoteness to emergency services in cases such as field work away from campus or for MIT satellite facilities and certain campus locations.

OSHA cites ANSI Z308.1-2015 (Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits and Supplies) as a recommended, non-mandatory source of guidance. Class A kits as specified in

the 2015 ANSI standard have contents designed to deal with most common types of workplace injuries and should be considered for most MIT areas. Class B kits have a broader range and quantity of supplies to deal with injuries in more complex or high-risk environments. The use of some Class B supplies may require advanced training. Minimum contents for a Class A are as follows:

Supply	Minimum Quantity
Adhesive Bandage	16
Adhesive Tape	1
Antibiotic Application	10
Antiseptic	10
Breathing Barrier	1
Burn Dressing (gel soaked)	1
Burn Treatment	10
Cold Pack	1
Eye Covering (with means of attachment)	2
Eye/Skin Wash (1fl oz total)	1
First Aid Guide	1
Hand Sanitizer	6
Medical Exam Gloves	2 pair
Roller Bandage (2in)	1
Scissors	1
Sterile Pad	2
Trauma Pad	2
Triangular Bandage	1

Ongoing Maintenance of First Aid Kits

First aid kits should be frequently inspected to ensure the completeness and usable condition of supplies. An inspection reminder can be added to a Level I Periodic Checklist. Any supply beyond its marked expiration date should be replaced.

First Aid Classes

The MIT Emergency Management Office offers classes in First Aid, CPR and AEDs:

<https://prepared.mit.edu/>