



## Dry Ice Safety Reminder

Recently, a medical school Facilities staff member experienced light-headedness and difficulty breathing after entering a cold room to perform preventive maintenance. Fortunately, he was able to evacuate the cold room before losing consciousness. After his evacuation, it was determined that dry ice placed in the cold room had sublimated and created an oxygen-deficient environment.

Dry ice should never be stored in a cold room or other poorly-ventilated space, as it can create elevated levels of carbon dioxide and displace oxygen.

- Prior to entering a cold room, check to see if there is any visible dry ice stored within.
- If you see dry ice in a cold room, do not enter. Immediately contact EH&S.
- If you experience light-headedness, dizziness, difficulty breathing, or headache after entering a cold room, evacuate immediately, place a warning sign on the door and contact EH&S at (314) 362-6816.

EH&S staff will be inspecting the cold rooms on both campuses to ensure that appropriate signage is in place to remind people not to store dry ice in cold rooms. If you need additional signage for your cold rooms, please contact your building auditor or [ehs@wustl.edu](mailto:ehs@wustl.edu).

Thank you maintaining a safe working environment for the faculty, staff, and students at Washington University in St. Louis.