

STALL STREET JOURNAL

College of Engineering Office of Safety

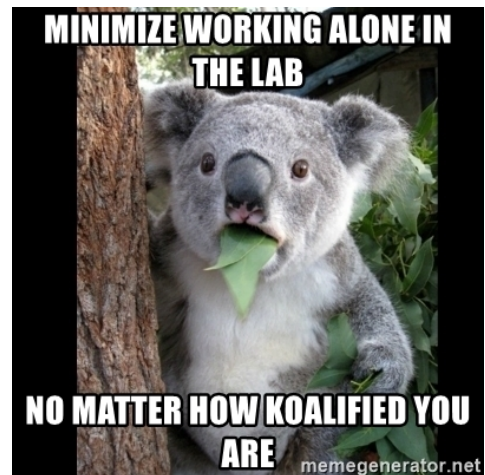
SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Summer 2022

Is it okay to work alone in the laboratory?

Working alone should be avoided; however there may be times when you find yourself alone in the lab. Working with hazardous materials and equipment always poses risks to researcher health and safety. These risks are heightened when working alone because help is not readily available in case of a mishap.

WORKING
ALONE
IN THE
LAB?



To reduce the risks of working alone:

- Confer with your Supervisor, PI, or Lab Manager about how you will stay in contact while working alone.
- Reduce the amount(s) of hazardous materials used.
- Know the location of, and maintain clear access to, emergency equipment (e.g., safety shower, eye wash, fire extinguisher).
- Check alarm systems (e.g., gas detection sensors) frequently and immediately take action upon alarm activation.
- Implement a buddy system! This is the best way to avoid working alone in the lab. You get a safety backup, a lab mate to talk procedures and results over with, and a friend to discuss whether *The Library* or *QQ* is better for lunch.

If you have ideas for the Stall Street Journal, contact:
coesafety@enr.wisc.edu

Have a great
summer &
Stay Safe Badgers!