

Don't Let a Small Tap Cause a Big Flood

We've had at least two significant water leaks on campus recently - both preventable. All it took was a hose that wasn't secured and a tap left running while someone stepped away.

TURN IT OFF BEFORE YOU WALK AWAY

Why This Matters

An unattended tap or a loose hose can flood a lab, soak a custodial closet, or seep into the floor below in minutes — reaching outlets, equipment, and rooms you can't see from where you're standing.

● Property Damage

Flooring, ceiling, and costly equipment ruined on multiple floors.

● Slip & Fall Hazards

Wet floors put everyone at risk of injury.

● Electrical & Fire Risk

Water reaching outlets or equipment can cause shorts, sparks, or fire.

● Disrupted Work

Lost research, cancelled classes, and closed spaces disrupt operations.

What's Been Going Wrong

- **Unattended running water** - filling a container or tank, then walking away (forgetting the tap is on).
- **Loose or unsecured hoses & connections** - a hose that pops off due to water pressure changes, or a fitting that isn't clamped can send water everywhere.
- **Distraction or Interruption** - a call, a question, or a quick errand mid-task, and the water keeps running longer than it should have.

How to Prevent It

- ✓ Never leave running water unattended — not even for a minute.
- ✓ Stay present while filling containers, tanks, or equipment.
- ✓ Set a timer or phone reminder for longer fills.
- ✓ Clamp and secure hoses and connections before turning water on.
- ✓ Inspect water lines, fittings, and equipment regularly for wear.
- ✓ Turn taps off fully — then look and confirm before you leave.

Stay Aware in Shared Spaces

Slip hazards: flag and wipe up spills right away.

Electrical danger: never touch outlets, cords, or equipment near standing water — keep clear and get help.

Shared responsibility: leave labs, kitchens, and offices safe for the next person.

See Something? Report It

Contact **Protective Services** the moment you notice a leak.

If the cause of the leak is something you're familiar with (e.g. your own experiment) take steps to stop the leak if possible.

Report the leak to **Health & Safety** as an incident (or near miss if there was no damage).

Safety is a Shared Responsibility

Every leak we've seen was preventable with one small habit: *pay attention to the water in front of you*, and shut it off before you move on. When each of us takes that moment, we protect our buildings, our people, and our work.

Questions?
Get in touch with us!



Health & Safety

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