

## Small Water Leaks Can Lead to Big Problems

Last month, a flood occurred in a 4<sup>th</sup> floor lab, leaking down through several other floors when a water hose came loose from its fitting. Similar floods have happened throughout the years, and mitigation measures such as chiller/recirculator units were purchased to address them. In this instance, the water use was not conducive to using a recirculation unit. However, a water sensor/alarm could have notified the lab, and the flood damage would have been greatly reduced.

This advisory is being sent to inform members of the campus community that there are preventative measures that can be taken to avoid large-scale floods in our buildings which can potentially affect expensive equipment, precious research materials, and other university infrastructure and operations. There are also health and safety implications of floods such as slips, mold, electrical hazards, spills/contamination from hazardous materials, etc.

**Recommendation: Perform risk assessments with applicable safety personnel to ensure that all unattended operations are properly set up/signed, and that measures are in place to prevent and detect leaks.**

Please take this opportunity to evaluate any processes in your areas that may use water. Are chillers/recirculators used whenever possible? For operations where a recirculator is not useful, please consider purchasing an inexpensive water sensor alarm with a remote notification function. There are many options available that have WiFi capabilities and can call/text/email an alert when water is detected.

Health, Safety, and Wellness will gladly consult with you to help determine appropriate mitigation measures, and collaborate with Campus Security on appropriate response measures in the event of a leak.

