



Laser Safety

EH&S - ORS – Laser Safety Bulletin

Issue 1: November 2020



Eye Exams:

The instructions to setup an eye exam with UHS can be found at Laser Safety website:

<https://ehs.wisc.edu/labs-research/radiation-safety/lasers/>

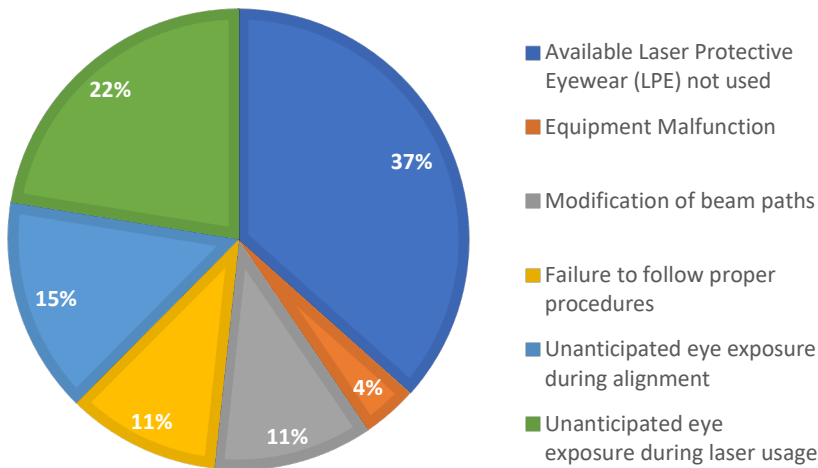
NOTE: Make sure to check your myUHS email for eye exam updates. It will not appear in your UW email.

Laser Safety Begins with You!

At UW-Madison, Office of Radiation Safety (ORS), our goal is to collaborate with laser users to focus on the safe and proper use of lasers and laser instruments. We are here to provide any help, either through the safety assessment and evaluation, or training and outreach program to ensure the laser work is done safely. However, accidents can still happen.

Looking at the majority of reported laser incidents that occur in research laboratories, the most common reason for injury is **human error**.

Contributing factors to laser-related injuries include, but not limited to:



A fraction of a second exposure

Being aware of the potential sources of risk, of negative habits, and correcting those habits will keep yourself and others

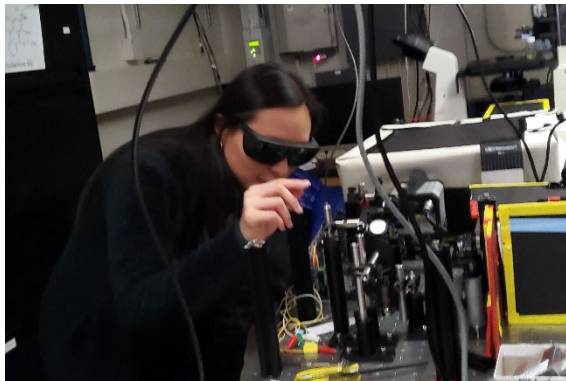
Injuries from lasers can be serious, even causing permanent damage.

It's always a smart idea to review work practices to ensure everyone is creating safe work habits.

Information of laser incidents can be found at [OSHA.gov](https://www.osha-slc.gov/) and [Rockwell Laser Institute](https://www.rockwell.com/laser-institute).



Image of Associate instrument innovator Dan What's computer-controlled laser.



DO wear appropriate LPE when working with lasers.

DON'T wear LPE that is not for the laser's specific wavelength.

DON'T use LPE if damaged or scratched.

DO inspect LPE for any damage or scratches.

DO clean LPE after each use.



DO follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Good work practices are critical to ensure safety for you and those around you.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact us at lasersafety@wisc.edu

Information and materials can be found at EH&S Laser Safety website: <https://ehs.wisc.edu/labs-research/radiation-safety/lasers/>

