



Purpose: Liquid Nitrogen Work.

Authors:

Approved:

Date: 2020/04/01

General Cautions

1. Liquid nitrogen is a cryogenic liquid and can cause severe frostbite. Always be cautious when working with it.
2. Liquid nitrogen can quickly displace oxygen in the room. Always work in a well ventilated area with an oxygen sensor.
3. If you are unsure of any procedure, consult with center staff.

SOP

1. This SOP is for working with small amounts of liquid nitrogen: filling microscope dewars, cryo-loading, sample storage. It does **not** cover plunge freezing.
2. For delicate work, such as grid loading, cryo gloves can be cumbersome. They do not need to be worn, but do be careful to not freeze your fingers.
3. Eye protection such as goggles or glasses should be worn.
4. Excess liquid nitrogen should be poured back into a storage dewar and not simply dumped on the floor.
5. At the end of the day, if you are the last user, empty the 4L dewars into the 10L dewars, and leave the 4L dewars to warm up so they are dry for the next user.
6. The general rule is that 4L dewars contain “clean, dry” nitrogen (samples) and the 10L dewars contain “wet” nitrogen (cryo dewars for microscopes).