

Missouri Western State University
Forensic Scene Research Facility Policy
Academic Policies
Approved: 05/12/2009

The purpose of the Missouri Western State University Forensic Scene Research Facility is to provide a location for quality research and training opportunities for students, faculty and regional professionals involved in forensic scene investigations. Research shall include the use of vertebrate animals in the study of forensic taphonomy as related to regional climatic and environmental conditions. To ensure uncompromised research while maintaining a safe and ethical research environment, and regulatory compliance, the following rules shall be implemented.

1. A research facility coordinator will be designated and assigned to review, along with the project coordinator and the appropriate department chairperson, all research proposals involving the usage of the research facility. It shall be the responsibility of the facility and project coordinators to work with the appropriate departments/committees to obtain any required legal authorization/permits to maintain compliance with local, state and federal law and regulations.
2. Any and all areas of the research facility involving potential biological, chemical and/or physical/mechanical hazards will be properly posted with warning placards and the designated areas will be restricted to authorized personnel only. All postings will be in accordance with MWSU policy, as well as city and state ordinances and statutes.
3. All sites requiring excavation will be surveyed in advance to ensure no hazards exist. This will include obtaining prior approval from the MWSU Physical Plant Director and the Missouri One Call System (dig-rite).
4. Research involving vertebrate animals will be conducted in an ethical and humane manner, consistent with all MWSU policies and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Used Committee (IACUC). If euthanasia is required, it will be performed using an acceptable humane procedure by qualified personnel in accordance to local, state and federal regulations. Animals that are deceased upon acquisition will be free of known diseases. Deceased animals transported to the University sites from other premises will be transported in sealed, covered, leak proof container.
5. The project coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that anyone coming into contact with hazardous materials will be required to wear personal protective equipment. Individuals will be properly trained and the following guidelines shall be adhered to:
 - a. Personnel handling hazardous materials shall wear protective gloves.
 - b. A face mask and eye protection shall be worn if there is a potential for a fluid splash or aerosolization.
 - c. In cases of possible clothing contamination, an approved protective suit and shoe coverings shall be worn.
 - d. All contaminated materials will be disposed of in accordance with MWSU's hazardous material guidelines.
6. Personnel using any unconventional or unusual tool or device which possess a potential risk to personal health or safety will be instructed in the proper and safe usage of said tool or device.
7. The project coordinator assigned to the project shall be responsible for oversight of the project, assuring compliance to all safety and ethical standards.

8. A log of all individuals entering the restricted area shall be maintained and any and all events involving exposure to potential biological/chemical contamination or physical injury shall be reported to the appropriate research coordinator, facility coordinator and MWSU's risk manager.
9. Research site location as well as the nature of the research conducted, will be documented and maintained by the facility coordinator.
10. Upon completion of all research, a site review will be conducted and appropriate decontamination and cleanup procedures will be reviewed by the project coordinator, facility coordinator and MWSU risk manager.