# Thi<mark>nk Safety</mark> First!

## **CHEMICAL SAFETY MOMENT**

#### **Issue 52 – March 2020**

#### **Researcher Nearly Loses Finger Due To Dichloromethane**

Warning: Some of the pictures shown in the article are graphic and may be disturbing.



Dichloromethane, also known as methylene chloride and DCM, is a common solvent used synthetic chemistry labs. The Safety Data Sheet (right) for this material provides information about the dermal, inhalation, and ingestion exposure risks, but little is known about the toxicity with injections (needle sticks). The article (left) details a first-hand account of a needle stick with DCM and how quickly it acts on the body and why immediate medical assistance is needed.



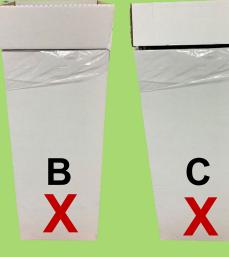
### Is Your Lab Trash Box Closed?

Lab trash box lids must be properly placed to completely secure the contents inside the box when you are not actively adding waste.

**Box A:** Lid properly placed, the box is closed.

- **Box B:** Inverted lid on the box does not adequately secure the contents inside of the box. The box is open.
- **Box C:** Lid resting on the back edge of the box does not adequately secure the contents inside of the box. The box is open.





#### Housekeeping continued... Clean frequently used items

Follow manufacturer's recommendations to keep items free of germs and contamination.





*Article: ACS Central Science* **2020** *6* (2), 83-86 https://doi.org/10.1021/acscentsci.0c00100