

CHEMICAL SAFETY MOMENT

Issue 7 – January 2016

Accident Reporting

When an accident happens, no matter how minor, please follow these steps to insure the correct people are notified:

- Seek medical attention immediately. Dial 911 if necessary.
- If the injury results in an immediate medical emergency, initial medical assistance may be obtained from the nearest hospital or, if less severe, your personal physician.
- Report any injury, no matter how minor to:
 - Your supervisor/advisor,
 - Department Safety Officer (Brandon Calitree).
- Work with your supervisor and department Safety Officer to accomplish the online report of injury within 24 hours.
- File a Near Miss/Injury Report with EHS and the departmental Safety Officer.
- Follow up with Safety Officer and supervisor/advisor to investigate the accident, if needed.

Forms/procedures can be found on the EHS website under heading "General Health & Safety"

Following these steps will ensure we all learn from mistakes and will help us prevent future accidents

Near Miss Reporting

Recently, a researcher in the department reported a near miss incident when they received a chemical burn after touching a contaminated door handle in the hallway. The incident was thought to have occurred after someone opened the door while using a contaminated gloved hand. Remember to **ALWAYS** have a non-gloved hand available in the hallway and to **NEVER** touch a common surface (door handles, elevator buttons, etc.) with a gloved hand.

Filing a near miss report is very important because it allows the science community to learn and be reminded of proper safety techniques. Near miss reports can be filed on the EHS website.

Hydrogen Cylinder Explosion at Tsinghua University

On December 18th a hydrogen gas cylinder unexpectedly exploded, fatally injuring a postdoctoral chemist. Early reports indicate that the gas cylinder was known to be defective or faulty while still in use.

If you notice something looks unsafe, please report it to your supervisor/advisor, EHS, or Brandon.

