Lessons Learned

Recently there have been several lab accidents at UT: a new bottle of LAH leaked onto an open lab bench in NHB, a student suffered burns from a LAH fire in a fume hood in BME, and a container of lithium caught on fire in ETC.

Also, at the U of Minnesota, a student was injured after an explosion while synthesizing an azide in the fume hood. The picture below shows the damaged fume hood. Remember to always notify EHS of lab incidents. Sigma-Aldrich offers an online training module for safe handling of pyrophorics.

Chemical Safety Symposium

EHS will be hosting a symposium on August 25th, 1-3 pm in the Avaya Auditorium in POB. Please join us to hear Dr. Craig Merlic from UCLA talk about changes to lab safety since the fatal lab accident in 2008.

Suggestion Winner - Daren Eiri (Moran Lab)

Daren suggested, “It would be interesting to see what are the common issues in lab safety on campus.”

The most common lab safety issues are:

1. Training—Ensure your required training is completed
2. Eyewash Testing—Make sure you are regularly testing them
3. Labeling—Chemical containers (including waste) should be labeled

Suggestions

Have a topic for our newsletter? Email us at: EHS-labstaff@austin.utexas.edu. If we use your idea you could win a $25 gift card to the University Co-op!