



# SAFETY ALERT

## Campus Incident—Finger Laceration

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

**Date:** November, 2014  
**Category:** Injury  
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### Description

A graduate student received a laceration to left index finger by contacting a broken beaker. The laceration occurred while cleaning the rim of a glass beaker with soap and water inside of the laboratory sink. The glass beaker broke and cut through the glove cutting the graduate student's finger. The graduate student immediately reported the injury and reported to the Wellness Center and received medical treatment.

### Findings

- Graduate student was wearing nitrile gloves while cleaning.
- This task is performed daily and lab personnel rotate responsibilities for task.
- About half of the glassware in tote was washed prior to beaker breaking.

### Root Causes

- The use of nitrile gloves does not afford the needed protection when working with the potential hazard of broken glassware.
- Washing of glassware is done by hand without the use of equipment such as a dishwasher.
- The SOP for washing glassware does not include a requirement to inspect glassware for cracks or breaks.

### Recommended Actions

- Revise lab standard operating procedures for washing glassware including inspection of the glassware for cracks and breaks.
- Identify and provide proper gloves for washing of glassware. For example, Ansell neoprene coated gloves is an option.
- Investigate feasibility of using a dishwasher for washing glassware.

