



SAFETY ALERT

Campus Incident—Chemical Spill

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

Date: March 2016
Category: Chemical Release
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Description

An undergraduate student was working with a vial containing approximately 6 mL of methylmetacrylate (MMA) and 0.07 grams of azobisisobutyronitrile. When leaving to take the vial to another building, it was set on a table with no containment. As the student picked up a backpack, the pack struck the vial, causing it to fall to the floor and shatter. The liquid was cleaned with wipes. The Fire Department was called due to a strong odor lingering in the area. Fans were used to disperse the fumes.

There were no injuries as a result of this incident.

Findings

- The student was working alone with no direct supervision.
- There was no containment of the vial.

Root Causes

- There was no communication to lab personnel that they not work alone.
- There was no containment of the vial.

Recommended Actions

- Communicate the current departmental practices as they pertain to supervision of undergraduates working with chemicals.
- Communicate the requirements from the Chemical Hygiene Plan that the transportation of chemicals requires secondary containers.