



SAFETY ALERT

Chemical Spill on Lab Bench

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

Event: Chemical Spill on Lab Bench
Date: January 27, 2016
Category: Chemical Spill
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Description

Approximately 50 ml of tetrabutyl ammonium fluoride (TBAF) in tetrahydrofuran (THF) spilled on lab bench when it boiled over through a syringe that was left in the septum. Given the near room temperature boiling point of tetrahydrofuran (THF), the TBAF container should be tightly sealed and kept cool when not in use. A syringe was used by a graduate student who was using TBAF to clean wafers.

Findings

- Graduate student was cleaning polymer wafers using TBAF in THF in the hood.
- Graduate student infrequently used this cleaning process.
- Graduate student removed the bottle of TBAF from the hood with the syringe still in septum.
- Graduate student was wearing gloves, eye protection and lab coat.
- Graduate student's lab safety was current.

Causes

- There was no procedure to remove syringe from septum and recap bottle prior to removing the bottle from hood.
- Personnel were not trained on proper handling of volatile materials.

Recommended Actions

- Establish procedure regarding the safe handling and re-capping of bottles prior to removal from hood.
- Train personnel on the procedure.