



# SAFETY ALERT

## Increase in Lab-Related Incidents

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

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**Category:** General Lab Safety  
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Since returning to campus and resuming work within research labs, there has been a number of lab-related incidents. Information on a few of the incidents and the lessons learned are below.

- Wash bottle fire – a fire occurred when a researcher working in a fume hood set down an acetone wash bottle. A stream of acetone shot from the bottle onto a heated hot/stir plate.
  - ⇒ The wash bottle was not a safety-vented wash bottle, which has an anti-siphoning fitting preventing high vapor pressure liquids from dripping.
  - ⇒ Picture to the right displays the anti-siphoning fitting.
- Microtome amputation – a researcher amputated the tip of his thumb while using a microtome with a foot pedal used for actuating the blade.
  - ⇒ The foot pedal was accidentally triggered because it was lacking guarding.
  - ⇒ RMS is currently developing an inventory of microtomes on-campus, please email [labsafety@nd.edu](mailto:labsafety@nd.edu) if you have one. Include the facility name and room number where the microtome is stored / used.
- Needlestick – a researcher was using a syringe when they accidentally stuck the needle into a finger.
  - ⇒ A Near Miss/ Good Catch was entered for this using the [online incident reporting tool](#).
  - ⇒ Please always seek medical attention with a needle stick.
  - ⇒ Picture to the right displays a Luer lock syringe with safety needle.



As mentioned above, RMS has an [online incident reporting tool](#) to report incidents, near misses, and unsafe conditions. The tool chooses the correct form to use by asking a few simple questions. All incidents must be reported to your supervisor who will then ensure to report the incident to RMS.

All safety communications can be found at <https://riskmanagement.nd.edu/communication/safety-communication/>.

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