

# Safety Bulletin



University of Wyoming Safety

Web: [www.uwyo.edu/safety/](http://www.uwyo.edu/safety/)

Phone: (307) 766-3277

Email: [uwehs@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwehs@uwyo.edu)

Regulated Materials Management Center

Phone: (307)766-3698 Fax: (307)766-3699

Email: [HAZMAT@uwyo.edu](mailto:HAZMAT@uwyo.edu)

## Laboratory workers must attend all three classes in this Lab Safety Series.

Various dates and times are offered. Please register for each class separately at the web site listed below.

### (1) UW Safety Orientation

Required of all new employees. Covers the pervasive hazards that face all employees. This section is also offered in conjunction with Human Resources Orientation. (50 min)

### (2) Hazardous Waste Generator

Required for all personnel who might generate hazardous waste. Discusses regulations, the University program and procedures for disposing of hazardous waste. (50 min)

### (3) OSHA Chemical Hygiene (Lab Safety)

Required for all faculty, staff and students working in chemical laboratories. An overview of the University program for chemical safety in the laboratory; general chemical safety, responsibilities, and liabilities. (90 min).

## For class dates & locations, and information on how to register for UW Safety classes:

- Go to the UW Safety training web page, [www.uwyo.edu/safety/](http://www.uwyo.edu/safety/)
- call us at 766-3277
- or e-mail [UWEHS@uwyo.edu](mailto:UWEHS@uwyo.edu)

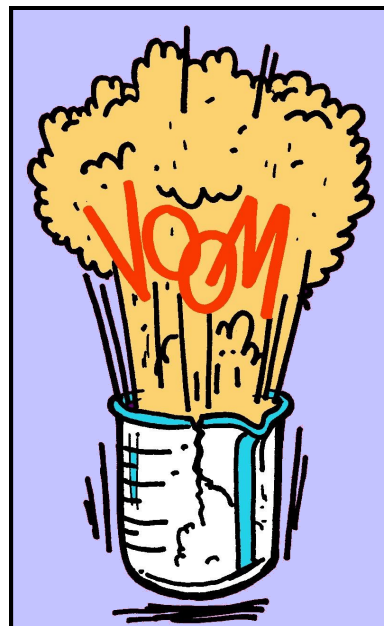
*Safety*: It's Our Job...  
It's YOUR Job

## Laboratory safety training prevents accidents and injuries

A researcher at another institution made alterations to a liquid nitrogen cylinder. The cylinder erupted, spun out of control and caused \$450,000 worth of damage, destroying an entire floor of research laboratories.

Another researcher poured ethanol into a waste container of nitric acid. The container exploded, showering the researcher with acid and broken glass. The use of the emergency shower was unnecessarily delayed, and then was only used for a fraction of the time necessary to prevent chemical burns.

These are a few preventable occurrences chronicled by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).



## *"It can't happen at the University of Wyoming, right?" Wrong.*

One UW laboratory employee poured acid into an unlabeled bottle, capped and placed it under the hood. The bottle blew-up. The hood and benches were demolished. Glass and metal were embedded in the walls. The residue found after the explosion was identified as trinitrotoluene (TNT). Luckily no one was hurt.

An electrical fire broke out in a UW laboratory due to overloaded circuits, "daisy-chained" power strips and cramped quarters. The loss to the University was hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of destroyed equipment, gutted research space and smoke damage (not counting the irreplaceable loss of research data).

## But the ending can be different...

A UW student correctly wore safety goggles and lab coat, but otherwise ignored instructions and peered over a heated flask of liquid inside the fume hood. The flask erupted into the student's face. Acting quickly and correctly, the Lab Assistant got the student under the safety shower and dialed 911. The student was sent to the emergency room, along with a Safety Data Sheet of the chemical involved, and fully recovered.