

## Headline News Laboratory Incidents

### **News Story 1**

**Source:** <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=danger-in-school-labs>  
12/29/2008

A 23 year old technician at the University of California, Los Angeles wearing a sweatshirt and no lab coat while working with liquid called t-butyl lithium. The chemical requires careful handling, because as a pyrophoric, it catches fire when exposed to air. Equipment malfunctioned, and the fluid spilled, setting the synthetic fibers of her clothing on fire. Two students ran to help her but they failed to get her to the nearby shower. She spent 18 days in a hospital burn unit before she died.

### **News Story 2**

**Source:** <http://www.bio.txstate.edu/~scied/Safety/Safety%20TxST%20Rev%203-%2025a.htm>  
10/10/2000

An unexpected accident occurred at Lee High School in Midland, Texas as students mixed chemicals in a dish during a routine chemistry experiment. Although they thought they had taken the proper safety precautions, by the day's end, one female student was in critical condition at Memorial Hospital. An explosion burned her when an open flame in her Chemistry classroom ignited methanol fumes. A fellow student who knew how to use a fire blanket saved her life. Two other students were severely burned.

### **News Story 3**

**Source:** <http://articles.latimes.com/2005/jun/18/local/me-burn18>  
06/18/2005

Two Huntington Beach High School students were seriously burned when a fire flared as they worked in a Chemistry lab on the last day of the school year. One student received second- and third-degree burns over 38% of his body, mostly on the upper torso. The second student received head and neck burns. Details of what happened in the 7:30 a.m. college preparatory Chemistry class were sketchy. School officials said only that the accident had resulted from a supervised classroom chemistry demonstration in front of 40 students.

### **News Story 4**

**Source:** [http://www.labsafetyinstitute.org/resources/chemistry\\_experiments\\_and\\_studen.htm](http://www.labsafetyinstitute.org/resources/chemistry_experiments_and_studen.htm)  
03/11/2002

Sitting in the fourth row of the auditorium during a chemistry demonstration, a student watched her teacher combine chlorides with methyl alcohol in a series of pie tins before lighting each. A flash erupted from one of the pans, sending a fireball hurtling into the audience. Her shirt and arms caught fire. She rolled on the ground to put them out and then crawled out of the auditorium for help. She and three other students from the school were eventually taken to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Wauwatosa for treatment of second-degree burns.

### **News Story 5**

**Source:** <http://tech.mit.edu/V115/N29/lab.29n.html>  
07/25/1995

A student was cut in the face when a flask overheated and shattered in a Chemistry laboratory. The student was performing a distillation in a chemical hood when the small flask she was using overheated and shattered. The student, who was wearing protective glasses at the time of the accident, was treated for a cut on her cheek.

### **News Story 6**

**Source:** <http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/05/23/3097003/mansfield-summit-student-seriously.html>  
05/23/2011

A Mansfield, Texas sophomore was seriously burned in a science experiment accident at the school. The student was in a chemistry lab when the accident occurred. The boy suffered first and second degree chemical burns on his face and arms

### **NEWS STORY 7**

**Source:** <http://www.yaledailynews.com/news/2011/apr/13/student-dies-accident-sterling-chemistry-laborator/>

04/13/2011

A Yale University student was killed in a Chemistry lab accident when her hair was pulled into a piece of heavy machinery. Michele Dufault was a senior astronomy major who died after her hair got caught in a lathe, a machine that spins very quickly to cut, sand, or shape metal or wood.

### **NEWS STORY 8**

**Source:** [http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-09-26/news/ct-met-science-class-20110926\\_1\\_chemistry-class-nsta-national-science-teachers-association](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-09-26/news/ct-met-science-class-20110926_1_chemistry-class-nsta-national-science-teachers-association)

09/13/2011

A 16 year old student of Chicago Ridge was in Chemistry class when a teacher combined nuggets of dry ice and water in a plastic bottle, sealed it tightly, and then instructed the students to pass it among themselves "to feel and observe the pressure building up" in the bottle. The vessel exploded while the student was holding it, resulting in "severe and permanent bodily injuries to his face and hands, irreparable loss ... of sight in his left eye", according to a lawsuit filed. None of the students were wearing protective goggles.

### **NEWS STORY 9**

**Source:** [www.artstechchemis.org/CHEMIS/casestudies/CS-michigan1-28-2000.htm](http://www.artstechchemis.org/CHEMIS/casestudies/CS-michigan1-28-2000.htm)

02/02/2000

A teacher and four students were injured in an explosion during a chemistry experiment at Lakeview High School. One of the victims of the explosion, age 17, suffered burns to the head, arms, and chest. The teacher and three other students were treated for burns and released. The teacher was performing an experiment with methanol and chemical salts, a procedure that results in flames, when methanol vapors in the air caught fire. The City Fire Marshall said the vapors might have been drawn out of the room before igniting if a nearby exhaust hood had been running. He also said it probably would not have made a difference if the hood was turned on, since the demonstration was being conducted at a desk several feet away from the hood.