



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Office of the Vice President  
for Research™

January 17, 2012

**To:** The TTU Research Community

**From:** Taylor Eighmy, Vice President for Research

**CC:** Dr. Guy Bailey, President  
Dr. Bob Smith, Provost  
Mr. Kyle Clark, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Dr. Alice Young, Associate VP for Research Integrity  
Mr. Cliff Harris, EHS Interim Director  
Dr. Dimitri Pappas, Chair, Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee  
Mr. Ronald Phillips, TTU University Counsel  
Deans  
Chairs  
Department Lab Safety Coordinators  
EHS staff

**Re:** Interim waste storage best practices in laboratories and studios

As you may know, there have been two recent accidents in TTU laboratories involving chemical waste storage.

Though investigations are underway, it is apparent that mixtures of waste acids and waste organic solvents were incorrectly stored in tightly-capped glass waste storage containers. These mixtures can result in gas evolution and catastrophic failure of the glass bottle. These accidents are entirely preventable and should never have happened.

I am asking all personnel associated with managing or directing laboratories or studio activities to do two things:

1. Please review the attached interim guidance with all personnel (faculty, staff, students) working in your laboratories or studios.
2. Please also watch with all your personnel the U.S. Chemical Safety Board video, "Experimenting with Danger" about the laboratory accident on January 7, 2010 here at TTU: <http://www.csb.gov/videoroom/detail.aspx?VID=61>

Please have your entire laboratory or studio staff sign and date the attached signature page and keep it on file for when EHS conducts their inspections.

