

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.

“Interim Guidance for Handling and Storing Wastes at TTU”
and
“Experimenting with Danger”

Building and Room Number(s): _____

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