

**Email from Dr. Taylor Eighmy to former, present or potential faculty researchers on R&D involving energetic materials.**

**Date:** Fri, 5 Feb 2010 13:05:32 -0600

**Subject:** Laboratory safety and energetic materials research at TTU

Colleagues:

As former, present or potential faculty researchers on R&D involving energetic materials (explosives), I am contacting you on behalf of a working group that Ron Phillips, Bob Smith and I have established and we seek your immediate attention to matters raised here.

As you know, a very unfortunate accident involving energetic materials research occurred on January 7th here at TTU.

Your research groups or programs all have been or are presently involved with research in energetic materials.

If you are working presently or will be working with energetic materials, then would you please certify back to Provost Smith, Ron Phillips and me by email that you have addressed these four related matters:

1. Brought all of your involved personnel working in your laboratories or field sites into compliance by ensuring they have taken the online safety training offered by EHS (see <http://ehs-server.ehs.ttu.edu/Web/TrainModDesc.aspx>.)
2. Personally convened with all of your involved personnel and discussed the requirements for safe laboratory practices involving energetic materials and that these practices must be adhered to. We would strongly encourage you to invite EHS staff to participate in these discussions. Please contact Randy Nix to arrange this.
3. Formally notified (in writing and/or email) all of your involved personnel as to the proper use of protective systems and clothing (e.g., hoods, blast shields, eye and face protection, lab coats, and gloves) in their work. Please relay to your personnel that this is mandatory.
4. Ensured that all of your involved personnel are fully aware of the chemical hygiene and the handling and storage of explosives OPs (see attached) .

We ask that you do this as soon as possible. You are welcome to implement other strategies as appropriate. Please let us know if we can help you with any aspects of this.

Additional communications to the TTU research community regarding laboratory safety will be coming next week. We anticipate that this will become part of a larger institutional focus on responsible conduct of research.

In the meantime, we look forward to your continued cooperation and proactive actions as to the above matters.

Thanks in advance,

Taylor

Dr. Taylor Eighmy  
Vice President for Research  
Texas Tech University