

**U.S. Chemical Safety and
Hazard Investigation Board**

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Hon. Rafael Moure-Eraso
Chairperson

Hon. John S. Bresland
Board Member

Hon. Mark Griffon
Board Member



In reply, please refer to:
Rec. Nos. 2010-5-I-TX-R3&4

Taylor Eighmy, Vice President for Research
Bob Smith, Provost and Senior Vice President
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas 79409

JUN 25 2012

Dear Dr. Eighmy and Dr. Smith:

As you know, the CSB issued the following recommendations to Texas Tech University pursuant to our investigation of the January 7, 2010 incident which critically injured a graduate student:

Recommendation no. 2010-5-I-TX-R3:

Revise and expand the university chemical hygiene plan (CHP) to ensure that physical safety hazards are addressed and controlled, and develop a verification program that ensures that the safety provisions of the CHP are communicated, followed, and enforced at all levels within the university.

Recommendation no. 2010-5-I-TX-R4:

Develop and implement an incident and near-miss reporting system that can be used as an educational resource for researchers, a basis for continuous safety system improvement, and a metric for the university to assess its safety progress. Ensure that the reporting system has a single point of authority with the responsibility of ensuring that remedial actions are implemented in a timely manner.

I am writing to inform you that the Board voted on May 22, 2012 to designate both recommendations with the status "**Open- Acceptable Response.**" This status change reflects the Board's determination that TTU has planned and initiated actions that appear consistent with the intent of the recommendations. We appreciate that TTU's newly established Institutional Laboratory Safety Committee is working to both revise the university's chemical hygiene plan and to develop an incident and near-miss reporting system.

Please continue to keep us abreast of TTU's efforts to implement the CSB's recommendations. We look forward to seeing TTU's revised CHP and incident and near-miss reporting system. If you have any questions or need further information, please have your staff contact Ms. Morgan at (202) 261-7642 or christina.morgan@csb.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rafael Moure-Eraso".

Rafael Moure-Eraso, PhD, CIH
Chairperson

**U.S. Chemical Safety and
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CC (via e-mail): Guy Bailey, President, TTU
Alice M. Young, Associate Vice President for Research, TTU
Manuel Gomez, Director of Recommendations, CSB
Don Holmstrom, Investigations Supervisor, CSB
Cheryl MacKenzie, Investigator and Team Lead, CSB
Christina Morgan, Recommendations Specialist, CSB
Mary Beth Mulcahy, Investigator, CSB