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Police Department Texas Tech University INCIDENT REPORT LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE / ADDRESS CHEMISTRY BLDG/ROOM 218/1212 BOSTON AVENUE, Lubbock, TX 79409 NARRATIVE: DATE/TIME REPORTED | CASE NO. | 01/07/2010 16:03 | 100011

Case # 10-0011

NARRATIVE:

On January 7, 2010 at approximately 1601 hours, I, Corporal Gilster, was dispatched to the Chemistry Building in reference to a loud pop and people screaming. When I arrived at the building, I saw people gathered around room # 218. I went to the room and observed a white male, later identified as sitting on a chair. I noticed that was missing several fingers on his left hand. I saw that there was a lot of glass and blood on the floor. One of the people that were assisting told me that there was an explosion and had been hurt.

Officer Mogg arrived at the scene and talked to , who was in the lab at the time of the explosion. told him that they were working with several different chemicals. He called it Nickel Hydrazine Pachloride. ____ told me that they were using over 50 mg. of the chemical. I asked several people if there was any danger from the remaining chemical. The people that I talked to said that they weren't sure, but it seemed that it was stable.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived and transported to the University Medical Center (UMC). was transported to UMC also by private vehicle, due to being in shock.

Richard Whitehead, who is an employee with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), arrived and cancelled the Lubbock Fire Department. Whitehead said that they would clean the area and e-mail me pictures of the scene. EHS closed and barricaded the lab until they could clean the whole area thoroughly.

I talked to Louise Hope-Weeks, the Associate Professor over the lab. Hope-Weeks said that they were working on a project for Homeland Security. She said that the lab protocol is to use no more than 10 mg. of the chemical.

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SUPPLEMENT

The following corrections should be made to Corporal Gilster's Report:

The correct spelling of IP2 is

The correct spelling of the chemical involved in the accident is Nickel Hydrazine Perchlorate (NHP).

FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION

On 01/08/10 at approximately 1645 hours, I, Lieutenant David Parker, met with Chief Ron Seacrist and Colonel Hoffman at the Texas Tech Police Department.

Chief Seacrist told me he received third hand information about a hazardous situation from Ronny Wall, Texas Tech University General Counsel. Wall reported that the student injured in the accidental explosion, may have taken property or chemicals from his laboratory to his private residence. The reported information had been provided to General Counsel by a faculty member, Dr. Brandon Weeks. Dr. Weeks was identified to me as the "principle investigator" in charge of the research being conducted in the laboratory. Dr. Weeks was reportedly concerned that may have taken "energetic materials" to his residence in violation of university policy, and that those materials may pose a risk of serious injury to or others in the community.

Chief Seacrist asked that I make efforts to contact property or hazardous materials from the residence.

and remove any university

Following the meeting with Chief Seacrist, I requested assistance from the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Representatives from both agencies agreed to provide support for the safe removal and disposal of any hazardous materials.

INTERVIEW - DR. BRANDON WEEKS

At approximately 1730 hours, I met with and interviewed Dr. Brandon Weeks at his residence, located at eet, Lubbock, TX. Also present for the interview were TTPD Captain Heath Steele, TTPD Captain Larry Clendenning and TTPD Sergeant Roy Prieto.

Dr. Weeks told me the following information:

Dr. Weeks is the "principle investigator" of research tied to a grant by the Department of Homeland Security and Northeastern University. The program is entitled "ALERT: Awareness and Localization of Explosives Related Threats". The focus of the research being conducted at Texas Tech University is to explore characterization of precursor chemicals and compounds comprising "energetic materials" which could be used to produce improvised explosives. Data collected in the study would be used by other collaborative academic partners to devise new screening, explosive

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detection and pre / post blast mitigation techniques. According to Dr. Weeks, the research has been conducted at Texas Tech University for the past three academic years.

Dr. Weeks identified several faculty and graduate students as taking part in the research: Brandon Weeks, Louisa Hope-Weeks.

On 01/08/10 at approximately 0930 hours, a faculty committee was assembled to review the accidental explosion that injured on 01/07/10. The committee was made up of the following members: Dr. Brandon Weeks, Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks, Dr. Dimitri Pappas, Dr. Dominick Casadonte and Dr. Clemens Krempner.

All activities in the laboratory had been suspended immediately after the accident pending the committee's review and recommendation of additional safety procedures.

The committee members spoke to several graduate students in order to reconstruct the events that lead to the accident. Each student was promised by the committee that they could remain anonymous. (Investigator's Note: Dr. Weeks declined to provide the names of students who provided information to the committee.)

During the review, the committee learned that the quantity of NHP (Nickel Hydrazine Perchlorate) involved in the explosion as provided to emergency first responders by was significantly greater than 50 milligrams.

The committee had learned from witnesses that for a had produced approximately 10 grams of the substance, far greater than the amount normally produced.

According to Dr. Weeks, the acceptable amount for production would be between 50 milligrams and 100 milligrams, and the acceptable amount for workbench testing purposes would be approximately 10 milligrams.

Dr. Weeks pointed out there was no logical reason for anyone involved in the research to utilize 10 grams of the substance for workbench testing. This amount is 1000 times greater than the 10 milligrams that would normally be utilized during reactive testing. He speculated that had scaled up his production in order to avoid having to repeat the process if additional samples were needed. He went on to explain that applicable research would normally include using approximately 10 milligrams to conduct a spark test, flame test, pressure hammer tests or analysis using Infrared Spectroscopy. Occasionally, one or more of these tests may need to be repeated. Under normal circumstances 50-100 milligrams of associated energetic material would provide more than adequate quantity for testing.

The committee's investigation revealed that then placed approximately 5 grams of the substance into a stone mortar and began grinding it with a glass pestle. This action is believed to have caused the explosion.

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SUPPLEMENT NARRATIVE

Dr. Weeks again pointed out that there was no logical reason he could think of for substance with the stone mortar and pestle.

Dr. Weeks then revealed that similar incidents of overproduction had occurred with other substances in the past. He recalled that during the summer of 2009, one student was supposed to produce 30 milligrams of TATP (Triacetone Triperoxide). Instead, the student produced 30 grams, or 3000 times the amount intended. Once discovered, the substance was divided into multiple vials, each containing 50 milligrams or less, and stored in the lab for future use. Dr. Weeks attributed the over production to a calculation error by the student.

One student reportedly interviewed by the committee told them that had been intentionally scaling up production and reactive tests since early summer 2009. The student reported would perform the scaled up production after-hours, and would often avoid necessary steps to characterize compounds in order to save time. These shortcuts means may not have always been 100% sure about what he made. The student also reported had been known to store scaled up materials in bulk inside the laboratory, which posed potential safety hazards. The location of the stored materials was believed to be in room # 218.

Additionally, a student had turned over a document allegedly printed from the internet by 1 on 06/15/09. The document consisted of seven pages of material from a web forum located at: http://www.rougesci.org/theforum/showthread.php?t=345. The document contained discussion and instructions for the production of MEKP (Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide). Visual-inspection of the document revealed a few handwritten notations in the instructions used to produce the substance. (Investigator's Note: It is unknown at the time of this report who made the handwritten notations. Dr. Weeks speculated that the notations had been written by , and declined to provide the identity of the student who turned over the listed documents.)

According to Dr. Weeks, students are often encouraged to explore publicly available information from the internet to assist with their research, but are strongly discouraged from attempting to produce materials based upon these types of documents since safety practices are not always followed by the authors. Dr. Weeks believed based upon receipt of the printout that any have attempted at some point to make MEKP. However, he could not be sure.

After the accident, room # 218 was secured by Texas Tech University (EH&S) Environmental Health and Safety personnel; Richard Whitehead, Hazardous Waste Specialist, and Jared Martin, Laboratory Safety Specialist. Dr. Weeks reported that prior to the sealing of the lab, he had an opportunity to briefly inspect the interior of the room, and did not see any large or unexpected quantities of hazardous materials stored there. However, his visual inspection did not include items stored in cabinets or workbench drawers, and he could not be certain that hazardous conditions did not still exist.

On 01/08/10 at approximately 1445 hours, Dr. Weeks reportedly met with during visiting hours at University Medical Center. Dr. Weeks was unable to speak

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with due to him being sedated in the burn unit. Dr. Weeks said injuries included the loss of three fingers and his thumb on his left hand, broken bones and burns to his right hand, the possible loss of one eye caused from shrapnel from the mortar and pestle, and severe burns to his face and body.

During this visit, Dr. Weeks told:

about the facts that led to

injuries. During this discussion he was told by

that I would sometimes bring home small vials from the laboratory. The vials contained unknown substances. Dr. Weeks reported that he was very concerned about this information because was not authorized to remove any items from the laboratory. Due to recent events and the fact that the identity and quantity of materials removed from the lab were unknown, he was concerned about the safety of who may inadvertently come into contact with them and cause injury.

After learning all of the listed information, Dr. Weeks briefed the Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Jon Strauss. Dr, Strauss directed Dr. Weeks to contact Texas Tech University General Counsel Ronny Wall. Wall in turn notified Chief Ron Seacrist at the Texas Tech Police Department.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr. Weeks provided physical descriptions of the materials that might be found in ! 's residence. He also provided the location of three rental properties owned by that might become subject of future searches if it was determined that criminal offenses had been committed or if significant contraband was recovered.

The following support personnel were contacted and were on-scene to provide technical assistance at the residence:

David Turner - Captain, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad Chris Eppler - Sergeant, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad David Opperman - Special Agent, BATF

Additionally, Lubbock Police Department Dispatch and the local FBI Office were notified of the incident in case additional resources would be required.

INTERVIEW -:

At approximately 1720 hours, I made contact with and interviewed at residence, located at reet, Lubbock, TX. Also present were TTPD Captain Heath Steele, TTPD Sergeant Roy Prieto, LSO Captain David Turner, LSO Sergeant Chris Eppler and ATF Special Agent David Opperman.

After I introduced myself and the purpose for our visit,

During subsequent discussion

invited us to enter

had been known to bring home

residence.

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told me

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SUPPLEMENT NARRAT	IVE			

small vials of unknown substances in the pockets of his clothing along with his keys, wallet and other personal property. To knowledge these incidents were not intentional but were instead the result of inattention to empty his pockets before leaving the laboratory.

volunteered to show us the related items. Ied Sgt. Prieto and I to the master bedroom of the residence and produced a clear glass vial from a basket located on a window ledge. said 'generally placed his keys and other contents from his pockets into the basket upon returning home from work. I took possession of the vial and observed that it was empty and did not appear to contain any residue.

then led us to the kitchen and produced three additional glass vials from a basket near a microwave oven. said this basket was also frequently used by to empty the contents of his pockets.

The first of the three vials from the kitchen contained a small quantity of a black granulated powder. The plastic stopper in the top of the vial was labeled in black ink with either the Roman numeral 9 (IX) or 11 (XI).

The second vial contained a small amount of fine violet colored powder. There was no label on the stopper.

The third vial contained a white crystallized powder which covered the entire interior surface of the glass. The vial appeared to be otherwise empty by its weight; however, it was not immediately possible to gauge the quantity of the white powder. The plastic stopper in the top of the vial was labeled "TATP" in black ink.

did not know what the contents of the vials were, but assumed they were related to research of energetic materials from the chemistry lab.

Due to the potential hazards of handling the unknown substances, in particular the vial labeled "TATP", they were immediately turned over to the listed bomb squad and ATF personnel.

then led us to the garage of the residence where turned over two additional vials from a work bench. These two vials were made of semi-opaque white plastic, and appeared to contain small quantities of a dark gel-like substance. The plastic stoppers of each vial were labeled "1-3" in black ink. I said believed these two vials contained "Gels" related to "nanotechnology" research previously conducted by the substances were hazardous, however, each of these vials were also turned over to the listed bomb squad and ATF personnel as a precaution.

Upon further questioning, in told us that I had brought home a few vials of unknown colored substances from the chemistry lab on July 4th and ignited the contents on the back patio of the residence in the presence of using a match. recalled that each substance produced a different colored flame such as purple, orange or green. (Investigators Note:

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Upon learning the above information, Dr. Weeks indicated these substances were likely related to the research of energetic materials. However, he was unable to confirm this or identify the specific substances.)

No additional items were located in the residence by the listed law enforcement personnel.

was provided with business cards and other contact information to be used in the event discovered additional items that posed potential hazards.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

After taking possession of the listed vials, Sergeant Chris Eppler spoke to Dr. Weeks by telephone and described the items found. Dr. Weeks confirmed that the vial labeled "TATP" was likely the substance as labeled, and may pose an immediate explosive danger due to being in dry crystallized form. Dr. Weeks also speculated that the vial which contained the violet colored powered may be NHP, the same substance which caused injuries. The vial which contained the black granulated power was believed to be common gunpowder, but this was only speculation. The identity of the two gel substances in the plastic vials could not be determined at the scene.

Based upon recommendations of the Bomb Squad and ATF personnel against storing the items, a decision was made to transport them to a safe location and destroy them using explosive ordinance disposal procedures.

Each of the listed items was photographed prior to being destroyed. (See attached.)

The listed items were transported by ATF to a remote area off a runway at Reese Center and were successfully destroyed by Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad personnel on 01/08/10 at approximately 2130 hours.

ADDITIONAL FOLLOW UP REQUIRED

At approximately 2011 hours, I spoke with Richard Whitehead, Hazardous Waste Specialist, Texas Tech University Environmental Health and Safety (EHS). Whitehead told me the EHS team had secured the door to Chemistry Room # 218 immediately following the incident on 01/07/10. The only key to the room was stored inside of a locked cabinet in Whitehead's office at EHS. The EHS team had returned to the lab on 01/08/10 to begin documenting, photographing and cleaning up blood and other biological hazards. Additional efforts to clean up the lab had been scheduled for week beginning 01/11/10.

I advised Whitehead of the possibility that explosive hazards may still exist and I asked that all work in the area be postponed until a collaborative review by campus officials could be made.

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SUPPLEMENT

On 01/11/10 at approximately 1000 hours, I, Lieutenant David Parker, accompanied Chief Ron Seacrist to a meeting at the Texas Tech University President's Office. Also present at the meeting were:

Ron Phillips - Legal Counsel, President's Office
Dr. Jon Strauss - Academic Dean, College of Engineering
Dr. Dominic Casadonte - Department Chair, Chemistry
Randy Nix - Managing Director, Environmental Health & Safety
Richard Whitehead - Hazardous Waste Specialist, Environmental Health & Safety
Jared Martin - Laboratory Safety Specialist, Environmental Health & Safety
Walter James - Fire Marshal, Texas Tech University
Sally Post - Director / PIO, Communications and Marketing
(By Teleconference) Dr. Taylor Eighmy - Vice President of Research, Texas Tech University

During the meeting, each attendee briefed the group on findings and actions to date. Topics discussed included a timeline of events leading to the explosion which injured applicable ATF exemptions related to commerce in explosives, classification of the grant research, applicability of restrictions to foreign nationals associated with the research, reporting requirements and hazardous material mitigation efforts.

After Chief Seacrist and I provided information that had been made available to the Texas Tech Police Department, we were informed by Richard Whitehead and Jared Martin that they had discovered large numbers of vials and glassware inside the laboratory (Chemistry Room # 218) that contained unknown chemical substances, most of which were not appropriately labeled. They also reported finding additional vials inside soffice (Chemistry Room of 1/08/10) during their inspection on 01/08/10. Whitehead and Martin reported that they secured all materials inside of the laboratory pending further action.

Upon the recommendation of multiple attendees, a decision was made to schedule a meeting at 1500 hours between Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks, Dr. Brandon Weeks, Dr. Casadonte, Environmental Health & Safety, Texas Tech Police, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a thorough search of Room # 218 and render the area safe. I was tasked to assemble the law enforcement and emergency response personnel who would oversee the removal, storage or destruction of potentially hazardous materials.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 01/11/10 at 1159 hours, I received an e-mail from Randy Nix containing a citation of the applicable ATF Exemption related to commerce in explosives. I contacted ATF Special Agent David Opperman and confirmed the applicability of the exemption. I was also told that it was his opinion based upon known information that no offenses had been committed and that the local ATF would

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not be pursuing the incident as a criminal investigation.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL DISPOSAL

On 01/11/10 at 1500 hours I met with the following people at Chemistry Room # 218:

Dr. Brandon Weeks - Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering

Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks - Associate Professor, Chemistry

Richard Whitehead - Hazardous Waste Specialist, Environmental Health & Safety

Jared Martin - Laboratory Safety Specialist, Environmental Health & Safety

Walter James - Fire Marshal, Texas Tech University

Jamie Lopez - Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Robert Burtha - Special Agent, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

David Turner - Captain, Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad

Prior to entering the room, ATF Special Agent Robert Burtha obtained a written consent to search from Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks. The consent was obtained as a precaution in case any previously unknown contents in the laboratory revealed that a crime had taken place.

Over the next few hours, Dr. Weeks, Dr. Hope-Weeks, Richard Whitehead and Jared Martin briefed the listed law enforcement personnel about the materials in the laboratory. Among the contents were several vials, plastic bowls and glassware containing a purple substance said to be NHP, the same compound involved in the earlier explosion. The compound was found in both powder and liquid form in several places around the laboratory, with a number of the containers thought to be in various stages of production. Each of these items were identified by Dr. Weeks and Dr. Hope-Weeks as being potentially dangerous.

Dr. Weeks and Dr. Hope-Weeks then guided the listed personnel on a careful inventory of the remaining contents of the lab in an effort to segregate unknown "energetic materials" from known inert substances. Many of the compounds could not be specifically identified because they had never been properly labeled. Again, these compounds were found in both powder and liquid form.

Dr. Weeks and Dr. Hope-Weeks were unable to provide information about the specific risks of the unlabeled compounds and recommended that these items be gathered and destroyed.

The room and applicable items were photographed and documented by personnel from Environmental Health and Safety. Additionally, I took photographs to document my observations. Richard Whitehead prepared a property receipt for the items removed from the laboratory, which was signed by ATF personnel. The items removed from the laboratory included:

- 2 plastic trays containing purple, solidified gel-like compound and residue (NHP from accident)
- 33 glass vials of unknown powdered compounds
- 21 broken vials containing unknown powdered compounds and residue
- 3 plastic test tubes containing unknown power
- 6 glass containers containing unknown liquids

REPORTING OFFICER	SUPPLEMENT DATE AND TIME REPORTED	REVIEWED BY	APP	ROVAL DATE AND TIME
PARKER, DAVID	01/12/2010 08:00		M 000- MUDO-00000-000-000-000-000-000-000-000-000	
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	100	8/10/2010 16:03	PARKER, DAVID	8 of 10

	Police Depa	artment	
	Texas Tech U	Iniversity	
	Supplement Ca	ase Report	
		•	CASE NO. 100011
LOCATION OF OCCUR	ENCE / ADDRESS	CAD NO.	DATE AND TIME REPORTED
CHEMISTRY BLD	G/ROOM 218/1212 BOSTON AVENUE, Lubbock, TX 79409	10-01-07-000923	01/07/2010 16:03
CODE SECTION	CRIME DESCRIPTION	CLASSIFICATION	REPORTING OFFICER
INCIDENT	INFORMATION REPORT	INFORMATION ONLY	GILSTER BRANDON

The following additional personnel / agencies responded to assist with the removal, transport and destruction of the associated items:

Chris Daniel - Lieutenant, Lubbock Police Department Bomb Squad James Curtis - Sergeant, Lubbock Police Department Bomb Squad Brad McMann - Corporal, Lubbock Police Department Bomb Squad Jeff Newsom - Corporal, Lubbock Police Department Bomb Squad Chris Hixon - Captain, Lubbock Fire Department Lance Hamilton - Lieutenant, Lubbock Fire Department Richard Jones - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Tye Miller - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Danny Lammons - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Tyler Wood - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Lee Oles - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Tracy Pounds - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Travis Smit - Fireman, Lubbock Fire Department Kyle Ferguson - Lubbock EMS Jamee Andrews - Lubbock EMS Hal Akin - Lubbock EMS

Following removal by bomb squad personnel, all associated materials were transported to the Lubbock Police Department firearms range, located on TX State Highway 114, west of Reese Center. All items were destroyed by bomb squad personnel on 01/12/10 at 0027 hrs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 01/12/10 at 1921 hours, I received an e-mail from Dr. Taylor Eighmy. Among the contents of the e-mail, Dr. Eighmy reported that the current grant contract from DHS did not have export control / ITAR restrictions that would prevent foreign nationals from participating in the grant research. However, based upon the nature of the accident DHS would conduct a formal evaluation to determine if future restrictions should be applied.

On 01/20/10 at 1127 hours, I received an e-mail from Chief Seacrist and Captain Steele. The e-mail contained a forwarded memorandum from Texas Tech University President Guy Bailey. President Bailey designated Dr. Taylor Eighmy as the contact person who would coordinate additional efforts relating to internal and external investigations regarding this incident.

DISPOSITION

This report will be classified as Information Only and will be reviewed if additional information or instructions become available.

Parker / 612 10-0011-2

REPORTING OFFICER	SUPPLEMENT DATE AND TIME REPO	RTED REVIEWED BY	APP	ROVAL DATE AND TIME
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	Police Depa	rtment	
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REPORTING OFFICER	SUPPLEMENT DATE AND TIME REPORTS	D REVIEWED BY		APPROVAL DATE AND T	ME
PARKER, DAVID	01/12/2010 08:00				
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