



---

January 31, 2010

By Electronic Transmission

RE: RELEASE OF ACCIDENT SCENE

Dr. Taylor Eighmy  
Vice President for Research  
Texas Tech University  
Box 41075  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1075

Before releasing the laboratory where the January 7, 2010 chemical accident occurred at Texas Tech University, the US Chemical Safety Board requests specific items be preserved and their storage location documented in an evidence control log, as described in the evidence to preserve letter sent January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The items are as follows:

1. Bottles of reagents used during the synthesis of the high energy chemical involved in the 1/7/10 accident (hereinafter “the compound of interest”).
2. Any precursor compounds made during the synthesis of the compound of interest.
3. Shards of the mortar and pestle that held the compound of interest when it detonated.
4. The corner piece of the black bench top, seen in photographs and video of the scene, which was broken off of the main bench top during the 1/7/10 accident.
5. Any un-cleaned glassware or tools that may have been used during the synthesis of the compound of interest.
6. Laboratory notebooks which document the synthesis of the compound of interest.
7. Waste records or tags present in the lab on the day of the 1/7/10 accident.
8. Chemical inventories in the lab on the day of the 1/7/10 accident.
9. Any records, files, characterization data, or papers (regardless of format) concerning the compound of interest or any precursor compounds made during its synthesis.

Office of Investigations  
Donald S. Holmstrom – Investigations Supervisor



- 
10. An inventory of all chemicals located on the lab bench where the compound of interest detonated and either a photograph or map of their location on the bench top.
  11. Any remaining quantities of the compound of interest
  12. Any safety procedures, warnings, list of prohibited activities, protocols, lab instructions, and cautionary statements present prior to January 7, 2010 in the area of the lab where the incident took place.

If any of the above items do not exist, please provide written documentation stating such.

Once these items have been secured, the CSB will release the laboratory back to Texas Tech University.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Mulcahy".

Mary Beth Mulcahy, Ph.D.  
Investigator  
US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board  
Western Regional Office

Physical address for FedEx, UPS, etc.:

1 Denver Federal Center Way  
Building 20, Room A1419  
Denver, CO 80225

Address for US Mail:

P.O. Box 25465  
Lakewood, CO 80205

303-236-8705 (phone)

202-591-6275 (cell)

202-974-7602 (fax)

[marybeth.mulcahy@csb.gov](mailto:marybeth.mulcahy@csb.gov)

Cc: Ronald Phillips, University Counsel  
Don Holmstrom, Investigations Supervisor  
Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks, Associate Professor of Chemistry