

# Lessons Learned



A flash fire in a high school chemistry teaching laboratory occurred from the mixing of boric acid with ethyl alcohol. The fire lasted 4-5 seconds and caused chemical burns to the professor and 17 students. The school was evacuated.

This occurrence was upgraded from an incident to an accident, due to the severity.

*Always know where your closest exit is and what to do in case of an emergency.*

[Need to report a lab incident?](#)

Never directly **smell** a chemical. Use your hand to **waft** the vapors toward you.



WRONG

RIGHT



# The Micro Gram

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## SAFETY



IS PART OF  
SCIENCE



When unattended:

## Shut the Sash!



If left open, your fume hood uses 3.5x the energy of a house!



Save up to 60% of energy just by closing the sash!

Try to keep the sash in the green whenever possible. Fully closed is always best!

## Upcoming Chemistry Stockroom Safety Training:

May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

9:00am-12:00pm

Sign up: [Safety Training form](#)



## Be Aware of Peroxide Forming Chemicals:

Potentially explosive peroxide crystals can form in certain chemicals, such as Ethyl Ether or Tetrahydrofuran (THF), if they are retained past their expiration date.

- Be aware of how to properly store and handle peroxide forming substances. [Contact EHS](#) if you have questions.
- Purchase quantities that will be used before the expiration date.
- Store peroxide forming chemicals in containment trays away from heat and direct light.
- Periodically inspect containers of signs of peroxide formation. If you need peroxide test strips, contact EHS.
- Dispose of peroxide formers by placing a [work order](#) for waste pickup before the expiration date.
- For containers that do not list an expiration date, dispose within two years of purchase date.

- **Do Not Move** expired peroxide formers.
- **Do Not Open** expired peroxide formers.
- **Do Not Open or Move** a container if crystals or a precipitate can be seen.



## Message From the Chemical Hygiene Committee

### Tips for Proper Storage and Labelling of Chemicals

- Limit quantity of hazardous materials stored in lab
- Maintain an accurate inventory of all chemicals
- All chemical containers must be clearly labeled, ideally with a chemical label printed by the Chemistry Stockroom



Have a suggestion for a lab safety topic?

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News from Environmental Health & Safety at PSU

<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/>