



April 2019 –Safety Glasses protect TWO students from serious injury in separate incidents.

What happened?

1. Researcher accidentally used an open beaker on the lab shaker machine instead of the stirrer plate splashing Sodium Hydroxide on the face and safety glasses. Researcher flushed the face briefly and did not notify safety. Researcher continued to have a burning sensation on the face and went to the Student Health Services.
2. Researcher loosened the squeeze bottle cap to stop Chloroform from squirting out and forgot to retighten before use. When the bottle was squeezed the top came off and splashed Chloroform in the face and in the nose. Researcher was seen at the hospital and is recovering. Researcher acknowledged how the safety glasses protected the eyes.

Sodium Hydroxide splatter on the safety glasses.



Squeeze bottle with chemical in the spout.



What was the cause?

Simple mistakes in both incidents caused researchers to have chemicals splashed on their faces. BOTH researchers were wearing safety glasses and lab coats. **The safety glasses SAVED both researchers from losing their eyesight in both incidents.**

What went wrong?

- Researcher did not contact health and safety in the sodium hydroxide incident.
- Researcher filled the squeeze bottle above the line and forgot to retighten the lid.

What went right?

- **Both Researchers were wearing protective safety glasses over personal glasses.**
- Researcher was aware of the hazards of the chemical they were using.

What corrective action was taken?

- Researcher fully understands why it is important to contact Safety when there is an accident.
- Continue to flush chemical exposures for up to 15 minutes.
- SOPs are being written for use of equipment in the lab using the sodium hydroxide.

How can incidents like this be prevented? ALWAYS WEAR SAFETY GLASSES and LAB COATS WHEN WORKING IN THE LAB. Contact CPSPE Safety Officer or University Health and Safety anytime there is an accident or injury.