



The University of Akron
OHIO's POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
College of Polymer Science
and Polymer Engineering

Office of Operations - Safety Office

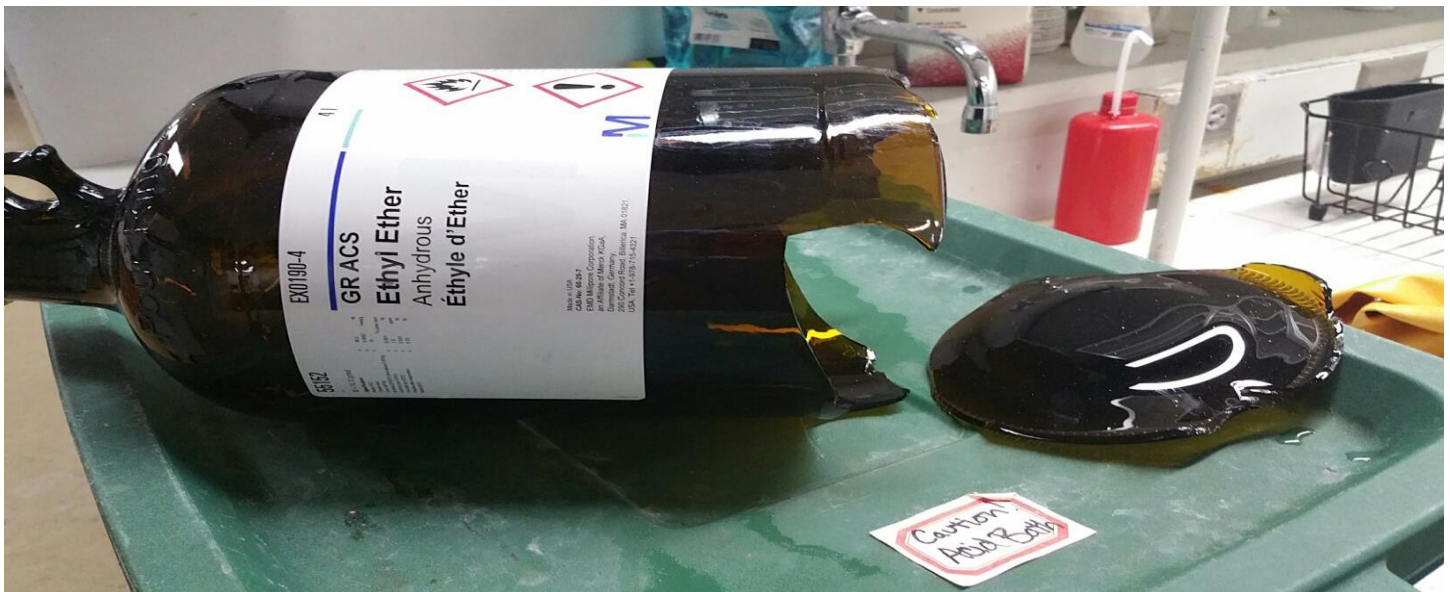
LESSONS LEARNED

June 2016 – Ether Spill

What happened?

A graduate student researcher was pouring Ether from a 4L glass bottle into a beaker to use as a wash for the work-up of a product (routine action). The jug slipped slightly knocking the bottom of the hood, shattering the bottom of the bottle off spilling approximately 3L of Ether. **Most of the spill was contained in the hood, while the researcher's lab coat absorbed the rest of the spill protecting his legs from the Ether.** A researcher working in the hood next to the accident quickly turned on the Lab Emergency Ventilation. The hood's emergency ventilation was also turned on and all electronic equipment was unplugged in the area. The researchers left the area, reported it to their PI and Safety Officer.

Incident photos



Cause of Spill

Hitting the glassware on the bottom of the hood. (Accidental)

What went right?

- Researchers were wearing safety glasses, lab coats and gloves that protected them from the spill.
- Researcher was not working alone.
- Researcher recognized the potential for fire and initiated the experiment in the hood.
- Researcher immediately responded to hazard by initiating the emergency ventilation.
- Researcher recognized electrical hazards and quickly removed them.

What Corrective Action Was Taken?

- Awareness through Lessons Learned

How Can Incidents Like This Be Prevented?

- Proper handling of any chemical bottles made from glass.
- Always wear gloves, lab coat and safety glasses.
- Accidents can and will happen in the lab, being safe prior to an accident decreases risk and injuries.

Resources:

ONLY ChemStores bottles containing Acids have the safety coating.

