



September 2018 –Direct UV Light Exposure Injury

What happened?

3rd year researcher was in the process of setting a slide in place for the UV light when another less experienced student accidentally stepped on the floor pedal to turn it on. Researcher was not wearing protective glasses and the UV light was directed at the Researcher. Orange protective glasses were available at the time of the incident. The researcher's vision developed black spots. Researcher was concerned and contacted a friend for transport to the hospital. Researcher DID NOT contact health and safety or use the 330-972-2911. Researcher sent an email to advisor. The less experienced student who accidentally pushed the pedal did not use the emergency red phone just outside the lab, or contact health and safety for the researcher.

What was the cause?

The researcher was not wearing proper UV safety glasses and less experienced student was not sitting properly on the stool. The accidental step on the UV light pedal happened while sitting on the stool improperly.

What went wrong?

- Researcher was not wearing proper safety glasses. (See previous Lessons Learned)
- No attempt was made to contact health and safety.
- Researcher was driven to the hospital by a friend. (See 2 previous Lessons Learned)
- No one used the red emergency phone just outside the lab to call for help.

What went right?

- Researcher was properly trained by equipment owner.
- SOP's are written for the use of this equipment.
- Training for use with this equipment is completed only by the owner of the equipment's group.

What corrective action was taken?

- The UV operating pedal will be relocated to the side of the counter from the previous location on the floor.
- Newer student needed to provide advisor paper about the hazards of using UV equipment.
- Both students involved trained on the importance of using safety glasses at all times.

How can incidents like this be prevented?

- Wear all preventative safety gear when doing experiments. Reduce your risk of accidents by yourself and other students in your lab.
- Contact 330-972-2911 in an emergency.
- Review safety and possible hazards to inexperienced students before utilizing equipment.
- Have full attention when conducting experiments in the lab.

Resources: Hazards of ultraviolet radiation: <http://www.uvm.edu/safety/lab/hazards-of-ultraviolet-radiation>