



Lessons learned:

An Eye Splash



What happened?

A student was working on a bench in a biological-chemical lab with a filter inserted into a 50 ml Falcon tube. While closing the tube's lid, a chemical was splashed into the student's eye. The student immediately washed the eye using the sink's tap water assisted by another student from the lab.



What went wrong?

- * Lack of attention to the change in closing the tube's lid with the filter inside (half a turn instead of a full turn).
- * Not wearing protective goggles, because of a mistaken notion that the chemical entailed wasn't hazardous.
- * Using tap water to wash the eye instead of using the eyewasher station in the lab, which is intact.



What went right?

- * The student was trained and authorized.
- * PPE was worn, except for goggles...
- * A fellow student assisted the injured student, taking the student to the campus' clinic for a clinical evaluation and assisting in reporting the incident.
- * The reporting chain was conducted correctly: The assisting student informed the lab manager who informed the faculty's head of administration and the PI. The faculty head of administration informed the safety unit.

How to prevent similar incidents in the future?

- * Refreshing OJT (on-the-job) safety trainings regarding –
- * How to correctly close a Falcon tube with a filter inside
- * Wearing protective goggles at all times when using chemicals in the lab
- * Using the eyewasher stations in emergency cases

