

LAB INCIDENT SUMMARY: Chemical Exposure

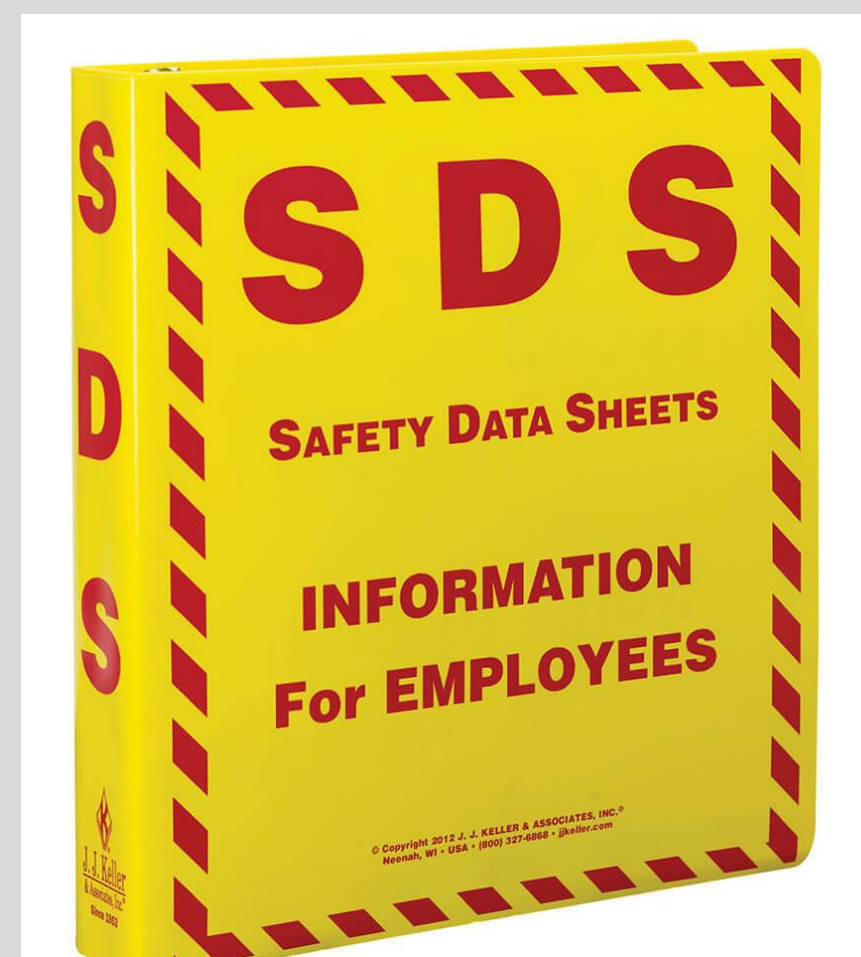
DESCRIPTION:

A UT employee was tagging legacy chemicals for disposal and was wiping an old plastic container that contained 500 grams of Carbazole. The lid of the container popped off during this wiping process, causing the Carbazole to spread directly onto their face and both arms.

The employee was immediately taken to the nearest eyewash, where they rinsed their face and eyes for 15 minutes. The employee was then escorted to the closest safety shower and stood under it for 20 minutes.

RESPONSE:

- Employee's supervisor called and notified EHS.
- EHS Lab Safety responded and consulted with the employee.
- Employee mentioned to EHS Lab Safety that they had inhaled some of the chemical and that they were experiencing a scratchy throat and itchy eyes.
- EHS Lab Safety escorted and dropped the employee off at the WorkLife clinic for treatment. The SDS for Carbazole was brought and provided to WorkLife.
- Another lab member accompanied the employee the whole time during treatment at the WorkLife clinic.



CAUSES:

- The container was old and lab personnel didn't know exactly how long it was sitting there.
- The chemical in the container (Carbazole) had degraded, creating byproducts and impurities.
- Legacy chemical containers were left by a previous researcher and history unknown.
- The container was not dated and was not checked for degradation (i.e. drying/crystal formation).
- Container was not stored in a cold place; should not exceed 30°C.
- Lab personnel were not fully trained and not wearing proper PPE.

PREVENTION:

- Dispose of chemicals if the owner is not known or has left the lab.
- Establish a protocol to train staff on chemical hazards.
- Regularly inspect and evaluate the integrity and condition of containers.
- Do not direct lab personnel to handle chemicals without proper training and PPE.
- Regularly conduct a review of all chemical containers and the inventory.
- Date chemical containers with the date opened and dispose of any chemicals that are degraded and old.
- Call EHS immediately when incidents occur or in an emergency.