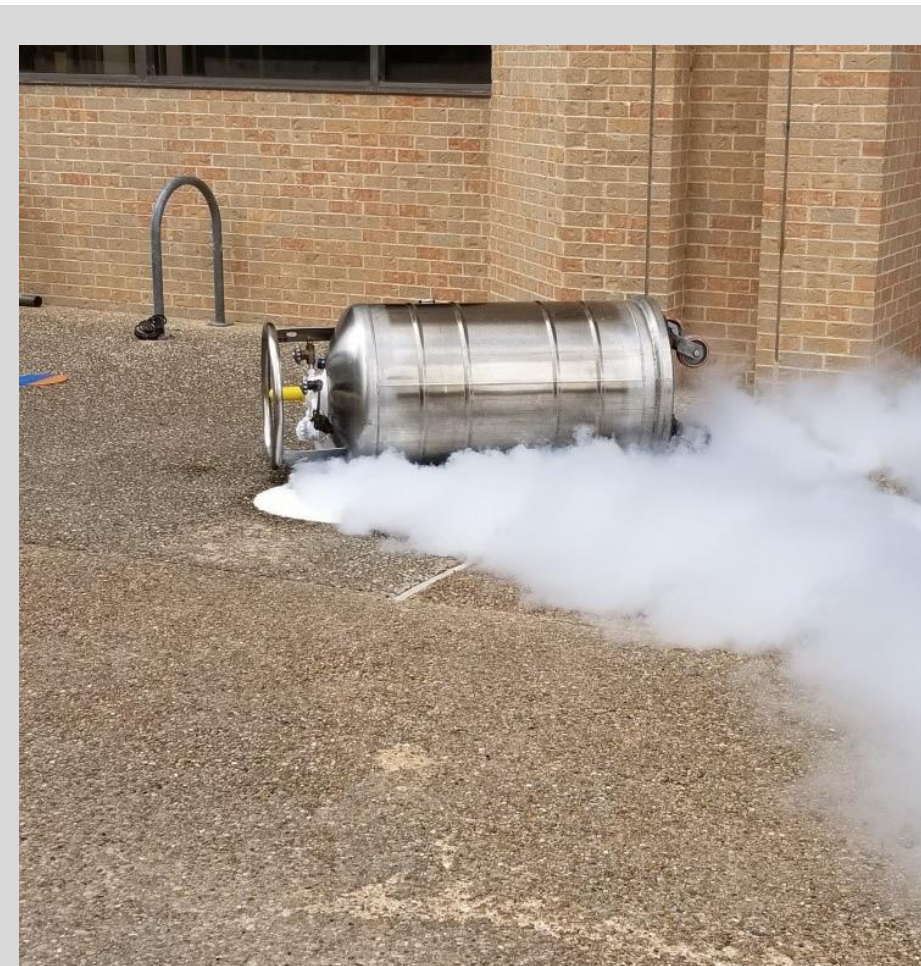


DESCRIPTION:

One afternoon, researchers needed to re-fill their nitrogen Dewar. The Dewar was rolled from the research building to PMA where the nitrogen re-fill station is located. After filling, the researchers returned to their research building, reversing their original route they took to get to PMA. After exiting PMA and turning the corner at the edge of the building, the Dewar the researchers were pushing tipped over and nitrogen was leaked.

RESPONSE:

- Researcher called UTPD and EHS, who responded to the Dewar's location.
- EHS established a perimeter.
- EHS determined the majority of the nitrogen needed to escape prior to standing the Dewar on its base.



CAUSES:

- The sidewalk had an uneven surface that caught the wheel(s) of the Dewar.
- Wheels on the Dewar were a custom modification and not a stable platform for the Dewar.
- Wheels were worn out and missing plastic wheel coating.
- Transport handle not present on Dewar configuration which resulted in pushing forward on the top half of the Dewar to create movement.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Custom modification to a Dewar is not allowed without approval from departmental chair or EHS.
- Inspect your Dewar before transporting and filling with nitrogen to ensure it is in good working order. Do not use if modified (without approval) or damaged, or is missing parts.
- Look for uneven surfaces along the transportation pathway. Tripping hazards such as uneven sidewalks can be reported for repairs by calling 1-2020.