

LDEO LAB SAFETY GRAM

6/15/2021 A lab technician was placing some waste Hydrofluoric Acid into a 2.5 gallon waste container when he noticed that some liquid was flowing out of the container and into the containment tray. Fortunately, the individual acted quickly by repositioning the waste container so that no additional liquid leaked out. The spilled material was then neutralized and poured into a new waste container.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Before beginning to use a new waste container, laboratory personnel should inspect the container for any damages. Do not use a container that appears damaged and report any such damaged containers to the LDEO Safety Office.
- All chemical waste containers need to be stored within a secondary containment tray that will contain the contents of the container should it leak. If you need a containment tray, contact the LDEO Safety Office.
- Should you notice that a waste container is leaking, take action by placing it into a containment tray and try to determine where the leak is coming from so that you can reposition the container so that the leak is at the top.
- Notify the LDEO Safety Office to inform us of the leak/spill situation so that we may take further corrective measures as may be necessary.

A Few General Laboratory Safety Reminders:

- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in the lab when chemicals are being handled. This minimally includes a lab coat, long pants/skirt, closed toe shoes, and safety glasses. Additionally, wear gloves whenever you are handling chemicals.
- Only perform tasks for which you are qualified by training and experience. (NOTE: Undergraduates should never be in a lab containing hazardous chemicals without proper supervision.) *Laboratory hands on training should supplement classroom type training to ensure that personnel understand lab procedures.*
- All chemicals added to a waste container need to be clearly written on the hazardous waste label; no chemical abbreviations/formulas.
- Ensure that the appropriate “waste characteristics check off boxes” at the bottom of the hazardous waste label are checked off for the specific wastes in the container
- If further assistance is needed, contact the LDEO Safety Office .