

Lessons Learned: After reading previous "lessons learned", you should be inspecting your chemical storage areas on a weekly basis to ensure that the containers are in good condition and there are no leaks. But, are you wearing your PPE when you do this? "PPE" is "personal protective equipment". This includes safety glasses/goggles, gloves and a lab coat. Your students are required to wear gloves when handling the dilute solutions, so why wouldn't you wear gloves when handling the original containers? Be prepared for the leaks and spills and avoid the injuries. Burns to your hands are easily preventable. Recovering from burns to your hands is painful. Remember, tho, that not all gloves are "created equally". Make sure that the gloves you are wearing are appropriate for the chemicals you are working with. Latex does not offer any chemical protection. Nitrile gloves that are a minimum of 4 mil thick are appropriate for general lab work. Always check the permeation and degradation charts for your gloves. And, if you have any questions, email me!

[More PPE info: http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/lab/ppe/](http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/lab/ppe/)

ALBERT GALLATIN TEACHER HOSPITALIZED AFTER 'CHEMICAL SPILL'

<http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/2799217-74/hospitalized-teacher-albert-bezjak-colebank-comment-district-gallatin-board-chemical#axzz29kF98AoK>

Tags: us_PA, laboratory, release, injury, unknown_chemical

A teacher at Albert Gallatin High School in Fayette County remains hospitalized since last week when she was burned in an accident in a chemistry lab.

Superintendent Carl Bezjak and high school Principal Jason Hutchinson confirmed that chemistry teacher Bethany Herman suffered burns to her hands in the Oct. 10 incident.

"We had a chemical spill in a chemistry room closet. No students were involved," Hutchinson said Thursday.

The chemical, which Hutchinson described as "acid-based," was recovered and contained.

Bezjak said the container apparently had a leak.

The incident happened shortly before 7 a.m., before classes started, Hutchinson said.

The spill was cleaned, the room was ventilated, and the chemical has been removed from the classroom, he said.

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