

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim Gates <kim.gates@stonybrook.edu>

To: undisclosed-recipients;

Sent: Mon, Nov 10, 2014 10:18 am

Subject: Lessons Learned: More cost for the NYC Beacon HS "rainbow" incident

Lessons Learned: A recent article on the Beacon HS "rainbow" incident. If you have any questions about your demos - let me know. We all have better ways to spend this type of money, and the student was seriously injured.

PARENTS OF TEEN BURNED IN HS CHEM EXPERIMENT SUE FOR \$27M

Tags: us_NY, laboratory, follow-up, injury, methanol

The parents of a Bronx teenager whose ear was melted in a chemistry lab fire at Beacon High School is suing the city for \$27 million.

The suit was filed Thursday in Manhattan Supreme Court by Yvonne and Claudio Yanes on behalf of their 16-year-old son, Alonzo.

Alonzo and another student, Julia Saltonstall, 16, of Manhattan were injured last January when their chemistry teacher poured methanol into four hot Petri dishes containing nitrates that had been aflame only moments earlier, according to a city report.

The heat combined with the methanol and the nitrates triggered a fireball that flew across the table where Anna Poole's students were gathered.

Yanes had second- and third-degree burns on his hands and face. A custodian who responded to the put out the fire said at the time that his ear looked melted.

Saltonstall had first-degree burns on her forearms and was released after getting emergency room treatment. Her father has filed a notice of claim with the city, which says he intends to sue for \$10 million.

In court papers, the Yanes family lawyer, Jeffrey Bloom, said that accident exposed “gross negligence” and “abject dereliction and reckless disregard” for the safety of students and staff by the city Department of Education.

Bloom said that only two weeks before the Jan. 2 accident, the DOE had been warned by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board that the Rainbow Experiment, which Poole was conducting, “posed risk of severe injuries if performed.”

Kim Gates
Laboratory Safety Specialist
Environmental Health & Safety
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794-6200
Kim.Gates@stonybrook.edu
[631-632-3032](tel:631-632-3032)
FAX: [631-632-9683](tel:631-632-9683)
EH&S Web site: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/lab/>