

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Generated by EHSO from Actual Incidents

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- Type of Incident:* Chemical spill with skin injuries
- What Happened:* While a researcher removed a gallon bottle of acetic acid from a cart, the bottle didn't clear the bench and broke. The researcher was splashed with acid on bare legs and broken glass lodged into foot. The researcher was treated for 2nd degree burns on legs and received 2 stitches for cut on foot.
- Immediate Cause:* Due to the warm temperatures, the researcher was not wearing appropriate and protective lab attire. The researcher was wearing sandals and shorts.
- Root Causes:* Rules regarding proper laboratory attire were not adhered to.
- Corrective Actions:* **No matter what the temperature, closed-toed shoes and pants or skirts providing adequate leg coverage are to be worn in the laboratory.** See Section 8.5 of the UIC Chemical Hygiene Plan (www.uic.edu/depts/envh).

