

INCIDENT – ACID SPLASH

A lab member in a Homewood lab was sprayed with approximately 5 mL of acid when the tip of a cannula broke off.

The lab member was working in a fume hood and used a **20 mL syringe to inject 60 mL of acid**. The **fume hood sash** had been left in a raised position after experimental setup, and the lab member was **not wearing PPE**. The tip of the cannula had also **broken earlier** in the procedure from use and age, and new cannulas were still on backorder.

The lab member instantly rinsed her face under a sink. She called JH Safety and Security, which arrived with JH HERU, and the lab member was then transported to Student Health.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The chemical fume hood sash should be lowered as far as possible while you can still work when performing procedures involving liquid chemicals as splash protection.
- Safety goggles and a face shield are important when working with liquid chemicals for splash protection.
- Cannulas should be examined for use and age. Check for brittleness near the tip, as this may indicate the cannula is not stable enough for use.
- Consider using an alternative syringe or glassware to add 60 mL, as the repeated use of a 20 mL syringe might have led to strain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How old are the cannulas in use at our labs?
- How can we check if our equipment is in good condition before use?
- What other supplies do we have on back order, and are we using poor alternatives?
- How do we decide which equipment should be used for a procedure?
- What is proper PPE for a procedure with corrosive liquid chemicals?