

HANDLING OF ACIDS AND INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS SAFETY ALERT

**Western Human Resources
Occupational Health and Safety**

**August 12, 2008
(Revised: June 2012)**

A past explosion in a laboratory fumehood prompted Occupational Health and Safety to issue a Hazard Alert. This alert is intended to bring specific dangers to your attention.

An experiment involving nitric and sulphuric acid was being conducted in a laboratory fumehood. The waste generated was collected in a single waste bottle resulting in a mixture of waste acid which reacted and resulted in an explosion. The explosion propelled glass and acid residue out of the fumehood, covering many surfaces of the lab.

The University HazMat team and London Fire Department responded.

Before handling acids or any incompatible materials, Occupational Health and Safety reminds all chemical users at the University of the following:

Workers must be **specifically** trained for each task.