

Lesson Learned Briefing

No.: LL13-0002

Title: Handling packages containing hazardous chemicals

Event: LBNL Event

Event Date:

Category: ES&H - Chemical Hygiene,
Transportation

Lesson Learned Statement:

Use precautions when opening delivered packages of hazardous chemicals. Read more to learn about these helpful precautions.

Discussion:

Environmental Energy Technologies Division (EETD) experienced an incident in one of its lab where a package containing a very hazardous chemical called Sodium Ethoxide was delivered damaged (see attachment - Damaged Package). The glass container inside the inner shipping can was most likely broken. The researcher took the proper precautions by placing the damaged items inside a fume hood, labeling the hazard, and notifying division safety for assistance. Subsequently, the Alameda County Fire Department placed the damaged items into a containment pail and sent it out as hazardous waste.

There are "lessons learned" from this incident that all personnel who handle hazardous materials should be aware of:

1. LBNL Transportation Services can inspect packages prior to making deliveries to lab areas. Packages that are suspected of being damaged should never be delivered.
2. If you order hazardous materials, arrange to have Transportation Services deliver the package directly to your lab area rather than an office area. You can overwrite the "Deliver to Location" on the eBuy requisition form.
3. DO NOT store packages of hazardous materials in your office or the hallways.
4. Examine all delivered boxes for damage or leakage before opening. If the package has obvious damage, DO NOT OPEN. Place it in a fume hood and call X6999 for assistance.
5. Don chemical gloves, a lab coat, and safety glasses before opening chemical packages.
6. When possible, chemical packages should be opened in an exhausted fume hood.
7. Open the chemical packages carefully. Watch for leaks, loose caps, or broken glass.
8. If you see a problem inside the package, stop and immediately call X6999 to report the situation. Also, notify your supervisor.

Lessons Learned are part of the ISM Core Function 5, Feedback and Improvement. Applicable Lessons Learned are to be considered during working planning activities and incorporated in work processes, prior to performing work.

Please contact the following subject matter experts if you have any questions regarding this briefing.

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Uploaded documents/attachments:

[Damaged Package.pdf](#)

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