

Ames **Blue Alert** – Spontaneous Reaction of Unknown Chemical

A researcher was removing chemical containers from a glovebox at the Ames Laboratory. The researcher, trying to identify a material (approximately 10 grams) in an unlabeled container, opened the container in a fume hood when a brief reaction occurred. The researcher closed the container and reported the incident to the area supervisor and the ESH&A office. The container was taken to a secure location until further evaluation could be made.

No one within the research group knew of the material or how long the material had been in the glovebox. This incident reminds us of important chemical management procedures:

- 1) Label all containers with its contents (i.e. water, acid, flammable, etc.).
- 2) Spell out the chemical name. Do not use chemical formulas.
- 3) If you come across an unlabeled chemical try to find the owner or user or contact ESH&A for assistance.
- 4) Periodically update your chemical inventory.
- 5) Chemical inventories are submitted to ESH&A annually and should include all chemicals.
- 6) Maintain availability of MSDS' for chemicals in inventory.

If you have any questions call (4-7923) or e-mail me at kayser@ameslab.gov.

Thank you

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