

## **Chemical Stored on Floor Causes Fire**

UC Santa Cruz (April 2000)

A simple mistake caused this incident. During an experiment in the fume hood, the users temporarily set a 4 liter glass bottle of cyclohexane on the floor beside the hood. The bottle was without secondary containment. It then was kicked over by one of the fume hood users and the contents were quickly ignited by running beneath a refrigerator. The resulting flash fire caused first and second degree burns to a student's face and forearms. There was also significant damage to the lab. Chemicals should never be stored on the floor unless they are within secondary containment like a plastic tub.