Safety News

The Situation:
- $^{18}\text{O}_2$ transfer into an evacuated 100 mL solvent transfer flask
- All appropriate PPE was being worn by the student
- After the gas transfer was complete, the solvent transfer flask was removed from the fume hood prior to the flask warming to room temperature

The Results:
- The flask exploded in the student’s hands
  - Temporary loss of hearing
  - Multiple abrasions to wrists and hands
    - Two stitches in thumb
  - Glass shards embedded in abdomen
    - Three stitches in abdomen

Laboratory Response:
- Immediate:
  - Fellow lab members rushed to the scene
    - First-aid administered immediately
    - Principle investigator contacted
      - Student taken to urgent care
- Delayed:
  - Update in laboratory protocol concerning gas transfers

Ultimate Outcome:
- Do not work alone
  - But for the presence of other laboratory personnel, the outcome of the described situation could have been significantly worse

Safety Question
What are the three most dangerous hazards in your laboratory? What precautions should you take?

The first research group to submit the highest percentage of correct answers will receive a pizza party (up to three large pizzas) courtesy of the USU Student Safety Committee. All members of a research group must submit responses in order to qualify. Responses must be submitted by each individual. Individual responses must be submitted to snanderson@aggiemail.usu.edu by Feb. 6, 2014.