# Entering an empty lab without wearing protective glasses

Table 10-5

The first involves entering a lab which is empty. Hill and Finster report instances of explosions from over-pressurized containers which may be delayed.18

This example illustrates the value of a lessons learned database. Once people understand explosions can occur in empty labs, they are more likely to choose the right course of action regarding the use of protective equipment.

| **Division:**  **Chemistry** | | **Description of Operation:**  **Entering empty laboratory** | | | **By:**  **Date:** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **What if?** | **Answer** | | **Probability** | **Consequences** | **Recommendations** |
| Enter empty laboratory without wearing protective glasses | Explosion possible in empty lab from delayed failure of over-pressurized containers or equipment | | Low | Extreme severity if explosion while lab is entered and protective equipment not used | Always wear eye protection when entering a lab, even when void of apparent work in progress |

This file is excerpted from “Identifying and Evaluating Hazards in Research Laboratories: Guidelines developed by the Hazard Identification and Evaluation Task Force of the American Chemical Society’s Committee on Chemical Safety”.

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