

# Materials Safety

A Message from Rick Kelly

## Eye Injury from Corrosive Organic Solvent

Recently, a post doc in a Division lab suffered a minor eye injury when a few drops of dichloromethane (also called methylene chloride) from a squirt bottle splashed into his eye *under* his safety glasses. This accident occurred because someone left the bottle cap loose. Dichloromethane is a very common solvent used in MSD labs that has a range of properties that make it unusually hazardous:

- 1) The liquid is corrosive to eyes and skin and toxic via inhalation and skin contact
- 2) The irritation properties of the vapor only manifest at concentrations well above the safe exposure limit
- 3) Most gloves do not provide permeation protection against this liquid



### Appropriate safety controls:

- Use goggles when handling corrosives including dichloromethane
- Wear a lab coat when handling chemicals
- Use Viton gloves when handling dichloromethane\*
- Minimize use of corrosives in squirt bottles – if absolutely necessary specify safety measures in the JHA of effected personnel



\* Free Viton rubber gloves are available from Paul Johnson (x5810) or Carleton Falzone (Foundry, x7679).

Paul Johnson also has various goggle designs available to try on.

### Message from Miquel Salmeron:

Please review experimental procedures carefully, before starting work. Do not overlook improbable events (e.g. a loose squeeze bottle cap). Take appropriate precautions.

