

# MARSH RISK CONSULTING

## INCIDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY

### Workers' Compensation

Northeast	Principal Investigator exposed to toxic mercury	Wrong hand protection, mercury absorbed into the skin - fatality
South	Principal Investigator exposed to monkey virus	Fatality, \$66,000 in OSHA penalties
Central	Principal Investigator dies from cocaine overdose	Substance obtained through his research, no inventory control
West	Graduate research assistant died from injuries in lab fire when a syringe containing the pyrophoric material leaked. tert-butyllithium self-ignited in air, a non-fire resistant lab coat ignited.	OSHA assessed fines \$31,875, The University and Principal Investigator were charged with 4 felonies for willful violations of safety standards. Prosecutors reached a deferred prosecution agreement after the PI agreed to pay a donation to a local burn center and do community service. Criminal defense expense exceeded \$4.5 million.
Midwest	Principal Investigator electrocuted, damp lab no GFCI	Fatality
South	Failed to report biodefense research illnesses to CDC	\$1,000,000 fine
West	Laboratory hood explosion injures Principal Investigator	Medical costs exceed \$650,000

### University Liability Claims

Northeast	PhD candidate exposed to laser, no goggles	\$1,200,000
Northeast	PhD candidate exposed to toxic lab materials	Settled \$1,360,000
West	Methanol cannon experiment	2 students severely injured
Northeast	Cut off legs of cadaver, 32 students in dental class over exposed to formaldehyde	In suit
Northeast	Chemistry lab explosion high energy material	Unpaid graduate student injured
Northeast	Student hair caught in machine lab machine shop	Fatality
South	Laboratory Sodium Axide container exploded as student tried to scrape residue off the flask	Facial injuries, no PPE
South	Laboratory Sodium Azide exploded, student sustained chemical burns	Same university, same lab as the Oct incident, different student
Midwest	Chemical reaction, beaker explodes under hood	2 students injured
Midwest	Flammable mixture in non-fire resistant container, static electricity. Explosion injures unpaid grad student	Loss of arm, suit filed by student and spouse, significant property damage, \$115,000 OSHA fine for laboratory violations

## University Property Losses

Northeast	Lab fire – storage of materials -incompatible materials	Lab destroyed, work not conducted under the hood
West	Denatured alcohol experiment flashed	Lab destroyed, work not conducted under the hood
Northeast	Hydrochloric acid spill in lab	Building evacuation extensive cleanup
Northeast	Lab Explosion consolidating waste chemical	Lab destroyed, work not conducted under the hood
Northeast	Lab Explosion explosive element	Lab destroyed, NIH terminates project
Southwest	Lab fire consumes 2 NSF funded labs	14 years of research lost, no recovery plan, NSF terminates project
Northwest	Arson in plant genetics lab	ELF claims responsibility (EarthLiberation Front)
Southeast	Hurricane caused extended loss of power, emergency generator fuel ran dry	Millions (\$) of environmentally sensitive research was lost.
Midwest	Tornado strikes campus, nuclear research facility	\$20,000,000 estimated loss
Northeast	Principal Investigator asks unpaid undergrad assistant to trim nitrocellulose cylinder on bandsaw in adjacent metals lab.	Nitrocellulose ignites while being cut erupting lab fire and sprinkler discharge flooding the building floor and water leakage into two basement labs disrupting research projects and destroying additional electronics equipment.

## Environmental Affairs

Northeast	3 research mice infected with Plaque lost	Unable to determine where they went, never found
Northeast	Mislabeled/storage of laboratory hazardous material	\$344,000 EPA fines
West	Mislabeled/storage of laboratory hazardous material	\$2,000,000 EPA fines
South	Lab hood failure, emission of toxic material	Multiple local businesses make claims for business interruption and contingent business interruption due to forced closure by municipal authorities
Northeast	USEPA Inspection, RCRA labeling and storage of hazardous waste and other violations	Settled for \$150,000 penalty and \$400,000 for 3 community service projects
West	RCRA citation improper disposal of waste down a drain	\$250,000 clean-up of building and sewer piping
Mid-Atlantic	Hydrochloric acid pipe leak, research building	No secondary containment, property contaminated, air quality impaired, \$225,000 clean-up expense, PIs barred from entering building to conduct work.
Northeast	Mislabeled of waste, poor storage practices	USEPA Fine \$310,000
Mid-Atlantic	Mislabeled of waste, storage, inadequate staff training	USEPA Fine \$810,000
West	USEPA cites for waste labeling and storage	\$275,000 fine
South	USEPA cites for waste labeling and storage	\$100,000 fine