Lesson Points 5

1. No one should work alone after office hours (8.30 am to 6 pm). Staff can only work after office hours if given authorisation by the Officer-in-charge. In such cases, at least one other user or staff must be in the laboratory. 

   [Authorisation 5]

2. It is strongly advised that fashion accessories be removed and those with long hair be neatly tied or clipped (or a head cover worn) to avoid any hinderence with any equipment or work procedures. 

   [Dress code 5]

3. Buddy up and be accountable.

4. DO NOT take "short cuts" your life or limb may be cut short.

Stop Press: Yale University Student Killed In Hairy Accident

Subtext: Why wearing Safety Hair Cap Is Important

Michele Dufault Facebook Photo 2

Michele Dufault ’11, an astronomy and physics major from Massachusetts, died last night (Tuesday 12 April) in an accident in Sterling Chemistry Laboratory, University President Richard Levin confirmed in a campus wide e-mail at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. 2

[A] student, who asked to remain anonymous because she was not acquainted with Dufault, said her main work in the shop involves the lathe where Dufault died. She said students stay at the Sterling Laboratory’s machine shop well into the night, and often work unsupervised. She also said that her safety training class has taught personal safety measures — in particular, tying back hair and wearing tight-fitting clothing — but that the buddy system is not emphasized. 3

As investigations are still pending by Yale, unanswered questions include:

1. Was Dufault’s hair tied back or contained in a safety hair cap?
2. Was she alone when she started work or when the incident happened?
3. How long did the incident pass before being found?
4. Was her work done cleared by her supervisors?

Still no matter how careful, accidents can and do happen. “[Dufault] was a careful person with plenty of common sense, but sometimes accidents do happen,” said the student, who wished to remain anonymous due to the sensitive nature of the situation. 4

Inside this issue:

1) http://thelinkpaper.ca/?p=6524
5) http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/os/safety/In-House_Safety_Rules_Regulations-1.0-2010-09.pdf
The department welcomes any feedback and suggestions on safety, health & environment issues, not limited to our department’s laboratories, issues that can improve our offices’ safety, health and environmental issues are also covered. Please refer to our department’s feedback & suggestion system at http://medicine.nus.edu.sg/os/feedback.html.