

To Vice-Presidents/Deans, Heads of Schools & Research Institutes, HoFAs,  
Directors in Professional Support Services

From Dr Melanie Taylor

Date 2 February 2010

cc Prof M Case, Dr D Barker, School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives

Reference Safety Circular 1/2010

## Near miss reports, 2009

Action: HOSs/Directors are asked to :

- ensure the following list of near miss reports is discussed at their school health & safety committee or other appropriate meeting;
- note any reports of particular relevance to their own activities, and
- ensure that lessons learned by others are communicated to those dealing with similar risks in their schools/directorates.

“Near miss” reports are made for events that could have caused injury but did not. An easy example is an item falling from a window or building, and narrowly missing a passer-by. The outcome from the same event is a matter of chance, and could be a fatality or a surprised but unharmed person or group of people. Another example is a loose or worn stair carpet that several people have stumbled on but recovered their balance. The next person could trip and fall headlong down stairs.

The Safety Office collects near miss reports and where appropriate issues a safety circular or other communication about lessons learned by those investigating the event.

The list of near misses for 2009 was submitted to the University’s Occupational Health, Safety and Training Advisory Group in January 2010, and it was agreed to share these reports more widely so that senior managers can themselves identify events of relevance to their own areas, and take action to prevent future injuries. Whilst some of the events are laboratory-based, a common type of accident is a slip, trip or fall; such risks affect us all.

Your University Safety Co-ordinator can provide more detail about any particular report, on request.

Dr Melanie Taylor  
University Safety Advisor

Incident No	Date of incident	Type of incident	Location	Description of incident	Main cause	Outcome of investigation
1	05 Jan 09	Damage to property or premises	Jodrell bank Observatory (Outside)	Car slid on ice into wooden fence. Injury to front of car.	RTA	Not investigated.
2	07 Jan 09	Fire	Schuster Stores	Wall mounted (permanently wired) heater burst into flames. Stores staff isolated it, and used CO2 extinguisher.	Fire	All other similar units isolated. Reported to Estates helpdesk for urgent checking.
3	06 Jan 09	Damage to property or premises	Room H14, Sackville Street Building	Coffee machine dropped and damaged.	Equipment	Not investigated.
4	19 Jan 09	Near miss	Room G.622 & Vicinity, Stopford Building	Stopford Building air intakes bringing polluted air into building, causing noxious smells.	Other	Ongoing.
5	01 Feb 09	Damage to property or premises	G101a, Schuster Building	Leak from heating pipe sprayed hot water over labs and electrical equipment. Isolation valve located, boilers shut down.	Flood / water	SSA arranged for salvage exercise, Estates effected repair. All electrical equipment tested before reuse.
6	28 Jan 09	Near miss	Room A2005, Michael Smith building	Tap on liquid nitrogen storage Dewar stuck in the open position. Research technician managed to direct flow into a series of Dewars.	Equipment	Tap was eventually turned off by applying hot water and turning. Fault was reported.
7	05 Feb 09	Near miss	5th Floor teaching lab, Schuster	Two students complained of eye irritation following the use of teaching apparatus with a low power UV source.	Equipment	Investigated by Katharine Sullivan. Local rules reiterated, including induction and need to use PPE provided.
8	19 Feb 09	Near miss	Room 1.052, MIB	Breakage of pressurised solvent vessel containing NMP in fume cupboard, and localised spillage. Equipment switched off, and spillage cleared up.	Equipment	Failure thought to be due to age. Engineer on site to check integrity of synthesiser.
9	25 Feb 09	Near miss	Outside Richmond Park	Domestic assistant tripped over stone edging.	Building / structure	Reported to Helpdesk.
10	23 Feb 09	Near miss	Corridor outside LG14, Wolfson	Needle found in soft waste stream (gloves, handwipes, etc).	Radiation	Technicians found to be flicking used needles onto floor when disconnecting them from

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						radioactive filters, then picking them up and placing in sharps bin after isolator had cooled down. In future, needles will be removed with tweezers and placed directly in sharps bin, avoiding contact with fingers altogether.
11	27 Feb 09	Near miss	Room 12, LG floor, Wolfson	Sample leaked whilst dispensing from hot cell to product vial.	Radiation	Lab evacuated, contaminated clothing removed. RPA informed.
12	27 Feb 09	Near miss	Glass house 7, Botanical experimental grounds	Unauthorised persons visited glasshouse, passing sign warning of broken glass in roof.	Building / structure	In future, access will be restricted by non-suited keys.
13	04 Mar 09	Near miss	Room 5.36, Chemistry Building	Fume hoods (3 in number) went into alarm mode due to airflow failure. SSA was present at the time, and rang the Helpdesk immediately. After a few minutes, the fume hoods started extracting again and the alarms silenced.	Equipment	SSA and SO concern re PPM schedule forwarded to Estates. Extraction essential in this area. Backup fans already provided, may not have activated immediately. Local rules and SOPs in radiochemistry area being reviewed to include protocol in event of extraction failure.
14	04 Mar 09	Near miss	Room B4087, Smith Building	Leak of chemical onto lab coat from capillary containing acrylamide.	Chemical / laboratory	No action necessary.
15	10 Mar 09	Near miss	Lab 1.33, Chemistry Building	A solvent bottle containing dichloromethane fractured in solvent cupboard. No one was close to it at the time and it appeared to be a spontaneous event. Most of the solvent was caught in the catch tray, although a small amount escaped. Resulted in a little damage to paint work.	Chemical / laboratory	Lab was cleared, solvent absorbed into boom and sent for disposal. Reported to SSA in case this is a batch problem. Lab users reminded re handling care. Suggestion to pursue purchase of DCM in plastic coated bottles, if discounted price similar to supply in glass bottles can be negotiated.

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16	12 Mar 09	Near miss	Entrance Lobby, JRULM	A young man with no identification became abusive when staff refused him access to toilet. Occurred at 2020.	Other	Security called but young man left just before they arrived.
17	11 Mar 09	Damage to property or premises	Owens Park	Unknown object fell from the tower window smashing the windscreen of company vehicle parked at side of the tower. .	Other	Incident reported to Survey Systems, employer of vehicle driver.
18	13 Mar 09	Near miss	Room 2.03, Chemistry	A glass Winchester containing non-chlorinated organic waste shattered spontaneously. The bottle originally contained ethyl acetate.	Chemical / laboratory	SSA issued reminder about overfilling bottles, capping too tightly and mixing incompatible solvents.
19	11 Mar 09	Near miss	Tank Farm, Morton Lab	Estates gained access to clean out interceptor pits in Tank Farm using their own "contractors key" and without notifying anyone in the Morton Lab. SOP requires "sniffing" by lab staff prior to such work, to check for explosive atmospheres. No PPE worn.	Access / security	Estates reviewed their procedures for future work in Morton Lab, March 2009.
20	22 Apr 09	Near miss	Main Dining Room, Hulme Hall	Whilst being trained, buffer machine cable tangled around her legs.	Equipment	Not investigated.
21	02 Apr 09	Near miss	Lab 2.07, CTF	Microwave being used to melt agar in a Duran bottle. The bottle exploded & blew door off the microwave. Fragments of bottle found embedded in shelving on the opposite side of the room (approx 3m).	Chemical / laboratory	Bottle cap had not been opened at least half a turn, allowing pressure to build up in the bottle during the heating process. Reminder labels re releasing caps and using defrost settings to melt agar are being prepared for microwaves used in labs.
22	23 Apr 09	Damage to property or premises	Environmental Services Yard	Reversing a University van into stationery vehicle, causing a 4inch long indentation on left side of vehicle.	RTA	Drivers already given toolbox talk and issued with current copy of highway code. NFA.
23	01 Apr 09	Near miss	Ramp to Ellen Wilkinson Building	A piece of plastic flashing fell from a 2nd floor window and glanced off shoulder. No injury.	Building / structure	Estates asked to follow up with the Contractors.

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24	23 Apr 09	Near miss	Write up between A4032 & A4034 , Smith Building	Satsuma dropped and fell between the bars on 3rd floor to the Write Up Area on the Ground Floor. It missed someone by about 1 metre.	Other	See OHSTAG reports in 2009.
25	07 May 09	Near miss	Embalming Room, Stopford	As extraction fans came on, room filled with white powder and technician became covered in this powder.	Building / structure	Left room and closed the door. Dust found to be asbestos free before re-entry.
26	07 May 09	Near miss	Embalming Room, Stopford	See 25/2009	Building / structure	See 25/2009
27	16 Apr 09	Near miss	Near B63, Williamson	Screws & brass plate on swing door were loose, and screw head caught and tore coat of experimental officer.	Building / structure	EO secured screw and plate.
28	08 May 09	Near miss	Room: 3.03 - Fume Hood, Chemistry Building,	A THF sodium still was turned on to reflux whilst isolated from the nitrogen line. Collecting vessel became pressurised and exploded. THF, benzophenone & sodium emptied out into fume hood.	Chemical / laboratory	Sodium wire removed and quenched. Broken glassware removed from hood and quenched and fumehood cleaned down with isopropanol.
29	12 May 09	Near miss	Staff House	Door closers to the lift & stairwell area on the corridor had been changed. The new units are substantially lower than the old closers & protrude much further downwards into the corridor. Much greater risk of catching head on the closer.	Building / structure	Reported to STARS Conference Office Staff.
30	15 May 09	Near miss	5th Floor Corridor, Roscoe.	A metal and glass ceiling light fixture crashed to the ground just missing occupier.	Building / structure	Porters informed and broken glass cleaned up. Builders also informed and light fixture replaced, and asked for other light fittings on the corridor to be checked.
31	19 May 09	Near miss	Tower, OP	Laser pen pointed into Duty Tutors Room from a room at Tree Court	Other	Student concerned has been identified & spoken to by warden.
32	28 May 09	Near miss	Outside Beyer Building	Slipped on path in Old Quad , but did not fall.	Other	

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33	05 June 09	Damage to property or premises	Histology Lab, 1.583, Stopford	Lid was not screwed on properly on bottle of Millers stain. Bottle fell to the floor, causing a large stain on floor, wall, 3 freezers, a chair, jeans/lab coat & shoes.	Chemical / laboratory	Person instructed to ensure the lid was screwed on and not carry the bottle by the lid. Contamination of clothes was minimal although contamination of the floor and freezers was substantial and permanent.
34	11 June 09	Damage to property or premises	Landscape Depot	Reversed vehicle into metal recycling skip.	RTA	Disciplinary action to be taken for reversing without guide.
35	11 June 09	Damage to property or premises	E5 and B5, Morton Lab	Staff were attaching earth bonding to the Grain Rig, put a crimping tool on top of a mobile vacuum unit. Unit moved, and crimping tool fell between the windows & the barriers on each floor until it reached B floor where it broke a window.	Building / structure	Estates contacted to replace window. A number of actions were considered but it was decided to immediately make the wearing of hard hats obligatory on B Floor. Also, see OHSTAG reports re falling objects.
36	11 June 09	Near miss	C wing, ground floor, Smith	Walking along corridor and stumbled on a mound in the vinyl flooring.	Building / structure	Reported to help desk and area cordoned off to prevent another near miss.
37	17 June 09	Near miss	Blue, Ground, John Rylands Library	Removed a digital lock from door due to be disposed of, to relocate the lock. Found asbestos in the door.	Building / structure	Reported to Asbestos Manager. Area sealed off and cleaned up. Agreed method of work to remove doors with locks intact had not been followed.
38	01 June 09	Damage to property or premises	D2, Morton Laboratory	Fire alarm activated, building evacuated. Cause found to be a heater set to maximum to keep a constant temperature in the incubation room. PAT out of date. Signs of smoke damage on the ceiling in D2 outside the incubator room and on the position on the wall where the heater had	Equipment	Two major problems highlighted - one using equipment not suitable for the purpose and the second that the optical smoke head in the room did not activate the alarm system . The smoke head was reported to Estates.

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				been mounted. Damage to the heater wiring and smoke damager to the heater.		
39	25 June 09	Near miss	Rear yard, Stopford Building	A fridge/freezer was found abandoned at back of Stopford Building & removed by Campus Cleansing to a locked skip on Cecil Street. It was identified as belonging to FLS & still contained chemicals. FLS were informed of the occurrence and went directly to retrieve the chemicals, decontaminate the fridge and post a clearance certificate for safe disposal.	Chemical / laboratory	The fridge had been moved from the 3rd floor of the Stopford building which is being cleared out & the labs decommissioned. The fridge was labeled for "disposal" but did not have the H&S clearance certificate attached. This label was intended to indicate to FLS staff that the contents needed disposing of & was not intended as an instruction to House Services to remove it. In future, a clearer labelling system will be used.
40	23 June 09	Fire	Flat 12, Acomb House	Faulty fire detection equipment & actual fire in flat. Security found student cleaning kitchen ceiling which had severe scorch marks. Toaster had caught on fire & melted a microwave. The student put out the fire with a fire blanket.	Fire	Kitchen placed out of bounds. Smoke, heat detectors & call point all tested in the kitchen/diner area & found that none were working. The engineer identified that a smoke detector had been removed from the staircase & this broke the loop - hence alarms did not activate when the fire occurred.. Warden attended.
41	10 June 09	Damage to property or premises	Room 2.824, Stopford Building.	A leak in the ceiling of 2.824 (office space) found to be coming from the "wash down benches" of the BSU, 3rd Floor.	Building / structure	Estates contacted plumbers. Staff moved out of 2.824 until leak fixed.
42	18 May 09	Near miss	Lab. F9, Materials.	Incorrect storage of waste DMF in Lab, on floor, no hazard labels. Large stain on floor around/underneath bottle. Bottle could not be placed in the fume cupboard, so waste DMF would have to be poured into bottle,	Chemical / laboratory	Removal of all DMF from F9, consultation with colleagues, technician in charge of laboratory and Safety Officer. The use of DMF has been stopped until further

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				therefore potentially exposing themselves & others. Other examples of inappropriate storage noted.		notice.
43	21 April 09	Near miss	Lab F9, Materials	Small spill of DMF (<5ml) inside a fume hood whilst rinsing samples, some splash back onto clothing (hoodie) as lab coat was not fully done up.	Chemical / laboratory	Spill was cleared up, area ventilated. Clothing removed and kept separately, then rinsed in cold water prior to being washed on its own.
44	29 June 09	Near miss	Write up area, AL038, Smith	Key accidentally dropped from the 2nd floor, just missing someone's head.	Other	See OHSTAG reports, 2009.
45	02 July 09	Near miss	B2.21, Burkhardt House, Hulme Hall.	Events delegates complained of being unwell - stomach and chest pain, not slept well.	Other	Spoke with conference organiser who had received reports of sickness from other delegates. Unknown cause.
46	22 Apr 09	Fire	Electrical Substation, Altrincham Street	Two wooden doors to substation caught fire. The fire brigade & United Utilities were informed. Fire Service extinguished fire.	Fire	Suspected arson, relevant cctv were pointing in opposite direction - so no evidence.
47	18 May 09	Fire	Lab: 3.35, Chemistry Building	Acetone flash fire on bench, using naked flame too close to acetone waste (someone had poured into the bottle & left a drip).	Fire	Extinguisher used to put out fire. PG student learned about using highly flammable materials in a fume hood.
48	10 July 09	Damage to property or premises	Whitworth Lane, Owens Park.	Compact tractor being towed behind van ran into the back of van making a small dent to the left hand side.	RTA	Operative not trained/authorised to use tow ropes. In future, will not carry out any operation without suitable training or risk assessment first.
49	01 July 09	Near miss	Stopford Building	2 x 4 Watt UV emitting equipment VL-204-BL (Serial No: MO3 4332).unwittingly used by house services staff after discovery in waste from lab clearance.	Equipment	Confiscation of equipment and assessment of exposure level, Operatives informed re required action if eye irritation occurs.
50	15 July 09	Near miss	Lab 2.049,, MIB	Strong smell of phenol in black bin used for general rubbish. Bin liner contained pipette	Chemical / laboratory	Bags were removed from fume hood & labeled. Group responsible



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				tips, & what appeared to be columns used for nucleotide extraction. Another contaminated bin liner also found & removed.		spoken to.
51	15 June 09	Near miss	3rd floor, MIB	Mobile phone slipped from person's hand, fell between floor and glass barrier. Dropped to mezzanine floor. No-one injured.	Building / structure	See OHST 2009 reports.
52	23 June 09	Near miss	2.039, MIB	Glass bottle of zinc chloride fell from lab bench (approx. 1m). Bottle smashed and about 100ml liquid spilt on floor.	Chemical / laboratory	Cleaned up spill with chemical spill kit. COSHH form procedures followed, bag containing clean up waste left in fume hood until disposed of.
53	02 July 09	Near miss	3rd Floor cold room, AV Hill	Spill of 1ml Trizol reagent (50% phenol) within a fast-prep homogeniser.	Chemical / laboratory	Removed fast-prep machine to fume cupboard and cleaned several times with water..
54	22 July 09	Near miss	Lab Corridor, near door D.1409	Metal ceiling tile fell from ceiling narrowly missing a member of staff as he walked beneath.	Building / structure	Incident reported to the Building Manager; requested ceiling tiles in area to be checked for correct and secure fitting.
55	25 June 09	Near miss	Rear of Stopford Building	Fridge found at rear of Stopford, still containing chemicals.	Chemical / laboratory	Duplicate of 39/2009
56	28 July 09	Near miss	Ellen Wilkinson lawn	Tyre blow out on truck used to move landscaping equipment around.	Equipment	Tyre fitted wrong way round (ie valve on inside) and over-inflated. Foot pump to be used in future in place of compressed air line.
57	06 Aug 09	Damage to property or premises	Oak House, Fallowfield	Porter saw person breaking bedroom window. Photos and reports made.	Access / security	Intruder taken away by Police.
58	07 Aug 09	Near miss	E34, Mill	Crate of wine glasses placed on top of vending machine fell off when contractor opened door to restock. Contractor caught	Other	

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				the crate, only 1 glass broke.		
59	07 Aug 09	Near miss	Corridors, Chemistry Building	Maglocks on door "failed to danger", locking people in the building.	Contractor	Full investigation requested from Estates.
60	07 Aug 09	Near miss	D3240-1, Michael Smith.	Ventilation grille fell from ceiling.	Building/ structure	Area condoned off. Estates removed adjacent grill. FLS technicians checked all similar ones. Capital Projects Team requested to resolve issue of fixings. Action taken by Estates Capital Projects by 1st September 2009.
61	06 Aug 09	Dangerous Occurrence	Lift at Hub A/B, Michael Smith	Motor plate failed on passenger lift, whilst in the control of Kone maintenance engineers. No injuries.	Equipment	F2508 for dangerous occurrence (failure of load bearing part). Investigation by Estates.
62	20 Aug 09	Near miss	Ferguson Corridor, 3rd Floor & riser, Stopford	Very strong smell of xylene	Chemical / laboratory	Email from Tony Crabtree to SSA in M&HS asking for specific actions to be taken by users of histology lab. CC'd to Estates to check chamber cover in basement. See OHST report.
63	24 Aug 09	Near miss	B5 HV Cell, Morton Laboratory,	Complete rupture of multi-cell tank. 1300 litres of water with dye tracer discharged into cell. HV cell filled to ankle height & three people were splashed with dye solution.	Equipment	Floors were jetted with a Karcher to remove the coloured water and Nyex adsorbent used.
64	18 Aug 09	Near miss	Loading bay ramp, Stopford Building	Dewar of liquid nitrogen (~240litres) nearly toppled over onto PG student, when it was being transported over uneven ground.	Building / structure	Resurfacing work underway, HOS reminded everyone that 2 people needed when in gas bottle store. Project Manager later confirmed when resurfacing work complete, and this was checked as suitable

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						for transport of LN vessels.
65	03 Sept 09	Near miss	4th Floor Corridor, Chemistry	A plaster ceiling tile fell from ceiling narrowly missing a member of staff. No local or obvious cause.	Building / structure	Referred to Estates Helpdesk with a request to replace all other missing and cracked ceiling tiles as part of ongoing maintenance regime.
66	26 Feb 09	Near miss	Pathology Suite, Mayo Building	Pathology Suite & laboratories found to be unlocked, & two students eating lunch amongst the specimens. Many specimen jars needed topping up and seals had been damaged. Concerns that students/staff exposed to formalin.	Chemical / laboratory	Pots to be sent to South Manchester for repair. Rooms locked. USC waiting for a response from Manchester Medical School as to whether the specimens will remain in-situ or be removed.
67	21 Aug 09	Near miss	Conservation/Restoration Clinic, Dental Hospital	Needle resheathed and left protruding from sharps bin by UG dental students.	Other	Advised students of cross infection control and needlestick policy which they were in breach of. HoS has asked for waste disposal procedures to be reinforced at induction.
68	06 Sept 09	Near miss	Lab A1030, Michael Smith Building,	Thermometer accidentally dropped. Security called to secure the room in case of mercury contamination, but it was an alcohol thermometer.	Other	Room sealed off overnight, the next day the glass was cleared up and put in broken glass bin and alcohol wiped up.
69	04 Sept 09	Near miss	Lab: B2201, Michael Smith Building	Burning smell/gaseous odour.	Chemical / laboratory	All gas taps, fume cupboards, etc were checked. Smell transient. When dispersed, lab declared safe.
70	07 Sept 09	Near miss	EATS, University Place.	Wheel fell off clearing trolley during service and loaded with pots. Broken pots and food spilt on floor.	Equipment	Food cleared, wet floor sign used. Investigated by STARS H&S Manager.
71	16 Sept 09	Near miss	Room 505, Wolfson	2.5 litre Winchester bottle used for waste solvent (water + acetonitrile + small amount formic acid) found to be broken. The entire contents had spilled into tray of solvent cupboard.	Chemical / laboratory	It is assumed that bottle had an inherent weakness. Spill cleaned up using appropriate kit.

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72	07 Sept 09	Near miss	Goods Bay, Stopford	Clinical waste collection contractor SRCL found plastic container of used microscopes slides in a bin without a lid.	Chemical / laboratory	Users of clinical waste bins informed and reminded of the correct procedures. NFA.
73	22 Sept 09	Near miss	1st Floor Lab, AV Hill	A 96 well box of cryovials was taken out of liquid nitrogen tank. On warming up, they started to explode. The box was moved into the safety hood, tubes continued to explode and the UV light in the hood shattered. The remaining tube lids were loosened and put back in the box. The box was placed back into the liquid nitrogen tank.	Equipment	Full investigation report received SOP reviewed. Action plan and recommendations completed. Safety Circular 8/2009 issued.
74	15 Sept 09	Near miss	C43, Mill	False ceiling and light dropped onto desk (unoccupied at the time).	Building / structure	Estates removed light and checked the wiring. It seemed one of the wires holding the ceiling had snapped. External contractors called in to assess and fix the damage. Office taken out of use until work complete.
75	23 Sept 09	Damage to property or premises	Ground Floor Communal Equipment Bay (G.060), MIB	Spindle of Beckman Avanti J-E (floor standing) centrifuge snapped off during a run.	Equipment	
76	26 Aug 09	Near miss	F7, Materials	Selenium contamination smell.	Other	Group instructed by SSA to ensure at least one fume cupboard is on, waste solvent is kept in fume cupboards and regularly disposed of, and provide better emergency contact details.
77	10 Oct 09	Near miss	4.337, Stopford	Alarm activation in BSF caused by fumigant gas (chlorine dioxide). All detectors covered but one must have allowed some gas to trigger alarm. Area sealed. Security	Equipment	Agreed precautions were in place to make the procedure safe. No advance notification to Security. All other persons had been informed.

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				prevented from gaining access to validate alarm.		
78	10 Sept 09	Near miss	G.053, MIB	250ml bottle of conc HCl near pH meter was picked up by the lid & was dropped. The last user had not placed the lid securely on the bottle, no liquid spilt & no injury. Later, the same bottle was found at the pH meter with no lid. And later again, bottle of 5M NaOH was found near the pH meter at the edge of the bench again with no lid on.	Chemical / laboratory	Reported to PIs.
79	06 Oct 09	Near miss	LG13 (QC lab) , Wolfson	During QC testing, staff exposed to a small amount of (uSv) of radiation.	Radiation	QC analysts reminded to take care when performing pre-release integrity testing; monitoring will continue. The QC Team Leader implemented a system so that batch records are not touched by the technician performing the filter integrity testing.
80	15 Oct 09	Near miss	Room 2.7, Kilburn Building	Uplighter exploded and showered hot glass over the room, carpet burns.	Electrical	Light fitting (up-lighter) removed. Staff/students informed via email of the potential dangers associated with use of tungsten halogen light fittings. Existing light fittings checked to ensure glass cover in place and current PAT label. Information provided on alternative type light fittings.
81	16 Oct 09	Damage to property or premises	C5, Sackville St Building	Light fitting fell from ceiling after fixings failed. Light fitting secured through suspended ceiling by a number of threaded metal rods attached to unistrut. Screws used to secure the unistrut and fittings	Other	All other fittings in area taken down as a precaution and screws replaced with longer ones and double the number. Broken ceiling panels have been replaced.

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				were not long enough, and insufficient in number.		
82	23 Oct 09	Near miss	5th Floor, St Mary's Hospital	Discovery that new labs used for GM Cat 2 work are under positive pressure.	Bio/GM	Work stopped immediately, Enquiries being made into possibilities of release until discovery, and how the labs have come to be under positive pressure. Full investigation underway.
83	22 Oct 09	Near miss	CIGMR Blood Laboratory, Stopford	Mercury thermometer knocked onto floor from lab bench. Broke into two pieces, no mercury spillage apparent but a commercial spill kit was used to clean the area.	Other	All other mercury thermometers removed from lab.
84	06 Oct 09	Near miss	Rear, Core Technology Facility	Leaving CTF via rear pedestrian exit, large van parked by the guide rails. A car was exiting from the Incubator Building underground car-park quite quickly, driver hadn't seen pedestrian. Pedestrian slowed down; car driver braked hard to avoid collision.	Other	Paved pedestrian path has been highlighted and "speed bumps" and a 10 mph signs are to be installed. See other OHST reports.
85	06 Oct 09	Near miss	C1, Morton Laboratory	PG was stopped from blowing out residual sample by mouth from a glass pipette, and was informed that it was contrary to safe laboratory practice to do so. The solution being diluted was Acid Violet 17-classified on RA4715 as harmful by ingestion. A functioning pipette bulb was used to draw up the solution, but not during dispensing and he had performed the same action on several previous preparations on the table.	Other	Reported to HoS, Supervisor of student made aware, recorded in documentation for SCEAS Safety Committee meeting of 28/10/09. SCEAS Safety Committee are reviewing procedures for training in basic lab skills.
86	20 Oct 09	Near miss	2E.02, Chemistry	A 2nd year UG had reaction (A2-Spontaneous self-assembly, preparation a nickel(II) complex by a "template	Chemical / laboratory	Fume hood was cleaned to remove all the nickel salts formed in the reaction, and students were told to

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				synthesis") under reflux without stirring or anti-bumping granules (ABG's) in butanol (B.P108). The reaction then bumped out of the flask & condenser and sprayed all over the fume hood, no one was injured as the sash was closed.		cool their reactions down if they didn't have stirring and ABG's, the script will be amended for the next group. Students were shown slides of the incident.
87	05 Nov 09	Near miss	Owens Park	Parent of student in OP complained about powerful open/close ram on an access gate on the grounds perimeter. He felt it could squash and injure someone using it.	Other	Referred to STARS for investigation.
88	01 Nov 09	Near miss	MK2 Telescope, Jodrell Bank	Security guard reported that a helium compressor had fallen from the telescope, in high winds. No-one was working in the vicinity or was injured.	Other	All helium compressors to be checked and secured to relevant platforms on all E-system scopes.
89	06 Oct 09	Near miss	Student computer cluster, Arthur Lewis	Piece of glass found in drinks glass.	Other	
90	16 October	Near miss	F10, Materials	On opening autoclave, really bad smell. Cryovials had been placed into a bag and appeared full of solution.	Chemical / laboratory	BSO contacted. Autoclave bag sealed and placed it in the sink, windows opened. Breach of protocol identified, recommendations made re training, etc.
91	15 Oct 09	Near miss	A floor, Sackville St Building	During validation of fire alarm and location of fire door A6, Security found chemical warning signs on door and contact details out of date. Whole area had to be restricted until information re hazards could be established.	Other	USA sent email to USCs/ Safety Reps, 20 Nov 2009 re keeping warning signs and contact details up to date.
92	20 Nov 09	Near miss	Precinct Centre	Foul smell in the University Precinct Service area.	Other	At least 3 possible sources of smell identified. Referred to Estates SO.
93	13 Nov 09	Near miss	D3401, Michael Smith Building	600ml glass bottle under vacuum on freeze dryer imploded. All safety procedures were being followed, including Perspex safety	Equipment	Lab tech made everyone aware of the incident and increased the signage around the machine to

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				shield and plastic netting around the bottle. The glassware was new and not obviously damaged.		remind users of the potential dangers. Also updated the risk assessment to include use of plastic netting.
94	26 Nov 09	Near miss	Dental Hospital	Staff not trained to use the glucose meters attempted to do so. The test strip was incorrectly loaded into the machine so causing irreparable damage to device. As no result was obtained staff repeated the process on a second device - also causing irreparable damage to this. No working devices now available in Dental Hospital.	Equipment	
95	16 Dec 09	Near miss	The Mill	Asbestos insulating board was accidentally disturbed by contractors. SCEAS staff immediately sealed off from passing staff and students. All asbestos has now been cleaned from the area and air tests results were deemed satisfactory (below the limit of detection). Further work by contractors stopped until investigation completed.	Asbestos	Full investigation and report by Asbestos Manager Lynn Irving. Asbestos cleaned up, air test results were < 0.01fibres/ml.