

SAFETY BRIEF

Lessons Learned from the Cut Injury

Event: FENS 2100 Biology Research Laboratory VI-Cut Injury

Date: 14/01/2026

Category: Cut Injury

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Event:

Accidental cut injury caused by broken glass inside a laboratory sink.

Description:

After completion of an experiment, a plastic pipette part fell into a deep sink. The student attempted to retrieve it by hand, unaware of transparent broken glass inside the sink. The broken glass was difficult to notice because detergent bubbles inside the sink partially covered it. Contact with the covered broken glass caused a cut injury to the student's finger.



Findings:

- Broken glass remained unnoticed in the sink.
- Detergent bubbles partially covered the transparent glass fragments.
- Sink was not inspected prior to contact.
- Transparent glass posed an unseen hazard.

Lessons Learned:

- Broken glass may be hidden by liquids or detergent bubbles and can be easily overlooked.
- Hands should never be placed into sinks without prior inspection.
- Clear communication among all lab groups is essential in shared laboratory environments.
- Proper cleanup and use of PPE significantly reduce injury risks.

Prevention Measures

- Inspect sinks and benches carefully before touching.
- Use appropriate tools (broom and dustpan) to remove broken glass.
- Dispose of broken glass in designated glass waste containers.
- Inform all laboratory users immediately after any glass breakage, especially in shared laboratories.
- Use available spill kits in case of chemical spills caused by broken glass.
- Wear appropriate PPE, including double latex gloves when necessary.
- Follow laboratory safety and housekeeping procedures at all times.

Need additional resources?

For more information regarding laboratory safety, see the Laboratory Safety resources provided on the Lab Safety website [Laboratory Safety | Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences](#).