



Could this happen in **your** lab?

1. What

- A number of recent experiments have resulted in uncontrolled explosions in/from equipment – all fortunately near misses.
- For example:
 - over pressurisation of chemical apparatus resulting in acid being sprayed within a fume cupboard. (see photo)
 - over pressurisation a glass chamber.

2. Why

- While Risk Assessments were completed they were either not followed, or inadequate.
- Lack of inspection of equipment before starting the process.
- Poor supervision and training of the person undertaking the experiment – facility users and students.

3. Learning

- **Are your experimental Risk Assessments (RA) up to date? are the controls they identify in place? Do you review the RA as the experiment changes ?**
- **How competent are those undertaking the experiment? Has this been considered in the risk assessment? How will they be supervised?**



Further detail can be obtained from your local SHE Group