

Safety Alert

Issue: Near Miss

Date: 2018-12-11

Location: Physical Sciences Centre

Department: Custodial

Incident Details:

On December 5th, an employee summoned an elevator in the Physical Sciences Centre. When the elevator door opened, there was a bottle of liquid nitrogen on board, similar to the one in the picture. The employee did not notice the sign on the bottle, entered the elevator and rode with the bottle of liquid nitrogen to another floor. Upon arriving on the other floor, the employee was advised (by the person who put the gas on the elevator) that persons are not allowed to ride with the gas, and the signage was pointed out. The employee reported the hazard to their supervisor, who initiated follow-up. The investigation is ongoing, so a complete root cause has yet to be determined.



Cause:

There is an apparent lack of awareness of the procedure to transport liquid nitrogen by elevator. The signage and safeguards currently used may not be sufficient.

Liquid Nitrogen is an Asphyxiant, and employees should not be exposed to such dangers, especially in a confined area such as an elevator.

Corrective Actions (Interim):

- Employees shall not enter an elevator with a cylinder of compressed gas.
- Employees shall report all such hazards to their supervisors immediately.
- Review current procedure for transport of this gas, update as required, and ensure ALL affected parties are aware of the contents and trained as necessary.
- Look at the signage currently being used for transport to see if it is sufficient, or if larger signage or added safeguards are necessary to keep people out of the elevator during transport.