

WORKPLACE ACCIDENT INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Witness Employee: DOB: Dr. Patrick Harman ; 07/13/69
Employee Home Address: [REDACTED]
Employee Home Phone: [REDACTED]
Ca Driver License # [REDACTED]

1. What is the name of your employer? How long have you worked for the company?

UC Los Angeles Since July 2008.

2. What is your job title with the company? How long have you worked in that position?

Full Professor in Chemistry Since July 2008.

3. What are your duties?

Teach undergraduate and graduate students.
Supervise a research laboratory in synthetic organic chemistry.

4. What is your previous experience related to the job you currently hold?

I was a Full Professor at Univ. of Texas.

5. Do you have a direct supervision with Ms. Sheharbano on this particular project?

Yes.

6. What was the project about?

Establish an Analytical Chemistry facility and also involved a routine synthetic operation on a bench scale

7. Were you present at the room or at the site where this incident occurred?

I was in my office and not in the laboratory when the incident occurred.

8. How many employees were working with her?

Are you her immediate supervisor?

Two employees

Yes.

9. How long has she been working at the assigned task before the incident occurred?

She had been working a couple of months on this project.

10. Was she using some chemical/chemicals on the assigned task?
chemical/chemicals she was using?

What were the name th

Yes. She was working on a project generating spec called vinyl lithium by transmetallating vinyl bromide with tertiary butyl lithium.

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INSPECTION NO. 300869791

OPT. RPT. NO. 018-1

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11. Was she using some tools at the time of the incident? What were some of the tools she used?

she was using the standard protocol in handling air-sensitive pyrophoric material. There are 2 ways of handling it, by cannulating needle and using a syringe.

12. Where were you doing when the incident occurred?

I was in my office when the incident occurred.

13. To your knowledge, what do you think caused the accident?

Upon talking with Sherrie, the tertiary butyl lithium and pentane got contact with her clothing and then ignited.

14. Who assigned her to do the job she was doing at the time of the accident?

me.

15. To your knowledge, was she given a health and safety training on the use of this reagent (t-butyl lithium)?

yes. she was trained by senior personnel that worked in the laboratory.

16. Were there any discussions during training on specific measures to protect her such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures and personal protective equipment to be used?

All students were given safety training.

17. Who conducted the training and when?

Was there any document generated to memorialize this training?

Past doctoral fellow.

Not sure.

18. Was the process/operation/job she was working on new?

No. Tertiary butyl lithium is a common reagent.

19. Was she using any personal protective equipment?

Could you enumerate some of the personal protective equipment that she used during the time the incident occurred? Protective clothing? Eye protection? Impervious gloves? To your assessment, were they adequate? Was a chemical apron available for use in the laboratory?

The incident occurred in Room 4221 and safety glasses and nitrile gloves were always worn and used. I observed that Sherrie was not using a lab coat. The burned lab coat that I saw came from Weifang when he used it to extinguish the fire in Sherrie's lab.

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20. Have you personally performed this procedure of withdrawing T-butyl lithium? Could you discuss the process of withdrawing the said above reagent?

yes and on so many times, I normally use a 60 ml syringe when withdrawing around 40 ml. of T-butyl lithium from a 100 ml reagent bottle.

21. To your knowledge and recollection, could you tell me what happened in this particular incident?

Hui Ding came to my office telling me that Sherri had been burned. I went to the laboratory and observed that she was sitting on the floor badly burned. She was asking "where's the emergency people" because Hui Ding called 911.

We tried to calm her down and then heard the sirens. I observed that Sherri's both hands, neck and midsection was burned. Her sweatshirt was also burned. I also observe there was a lab coat that was burned. The burned lab coat belong to Weifang which was used in putting out the fire on Sherri by wrapping her.

As she was wheeled out, she asked me to call her roommate and also asked for her computer. She was pushed to Ronald Reagan Med Ctr. I did not have a chance to talk to her after she left the bldg.

22. To your knowledge and recollection, did Ms. Sangji Sheharbano use any personal protective equipment e.g. protective clothing, chemical apron, laboratory coat, safety glasses, gloves etc.?

Laboratory gloves, safety glasses and properly using the inert manifold. She was not using a laboratory coat.

23. To your knowledge, could this incident be prevented? In what way, this incident could have been prevented?

yes. Instead of a syringe, use the cannulation technique.

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I HAVE GIVEN THIS STATEMENT FREELY AND WITHOUT COERCION; IT REPRESENTS THE FACTS PERTAINING TO THE ABOVE REFERRED ACCIDENT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

Print name: Patrick Hagen

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 01/22/09

Note: This interview was conducted in the presence of Mrs. Patricia M. Sager, Campus Counsel of UCLA - office of the Chancellor

Ramon Porras

(10)

From: Patrick Harran [harran@chem.ucla.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 4:11 PM
To: Ramon Porras
Subject: Re: Sheharbano (sheri) Sangji

Dear Ramon, I talked with Sheri the morning of Dec 29th, 2008. We discussed her plans for the day. Everything was proceeding as planned. I left the lab and began working in my office on the floor above. Near midday (I'm not sure of the time), my postdoctoral fellow Hui Ding came to my office, exasperated, and said "Sheri is burned". Together we ran down to the fourth floor and into the lab, where I saw Sheri sitting up on the floor - badly burned with arms outstretched. Weifeng Chen (a second postdoctoral fellow working with Sheri in the room at the time of the accident). Weifeng was pouring cool water from a ~2L container over Sheri's outstretched arms. Her clothing from the waist up was largely burned off and large blisters were forming on her abdomen and hands - the skin seemed to be separating from her hands. I kneeled down and asked what happened, she was panicky and said only there was a fire. I asked Hui Ding if he called 911 and he said yes. Sheri then began saying, where are they, where are they. I could hear sirens in the distance so I ran down to the street to meet the paramedics. I waved them down and told them where to find Sheri. They would not go into the building until being cleared by the fire department. Without waiting, I ran back up to the lab. Sheri had calmed a little. I don't remember exactly what we said to each other. I asked Hui Ding to go down and plead with the paramedics to come up. I asked Sheri who we could call - and she wanted her phone. She could not grip it because of her hands and asked that we call her roommates. I asked students in the adjacent lab to call and then watched as paramedics arrived, picked Sheri off the floor, put her onto a lab chair with wheels and moved her under the safety shower. They turned the water on while cutting off Sheri's remaining clothing. They then placed her on a stretcher. They wheeled her into the hallway and we talked - I told her we had called her roommates, they were on their way, and that we would bring her phone and computer to the emergency room. I then followed downstairs as she was loaded into an ambulance. I followed to the er in my own vehicle. I did not speak to Sheri again. Patrick Harran

----- Original Message -----

From: "Ramon Porras" <RPorras@dir.ca.gov>
To: "Patrick Harran" <harran@chem.ucla.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 9:41:35 AM GMT -08:00 US/Canada Pacific
Subject: RE: Sheharbano (sheri) Sangji

Good morning.

Dr. Harran, is it possible that you can summarize your recollection of the events that you observed about the incident on 12-29-08 regarding the above subject matter? I have to include it together with my interview notes that were taken on 01-22-09. This only covers what you see, hear and your interaction with Sheri when you went to the laboratory after the incident occurred.

I really appreciate the cooperation that you extended during the time that we met and the additional information that you will furnish is greatly appreciated. The objective of this investigation is we are trying to prevent this accident to happen in the future and is not a fault finding inquisition.

Thank you very much.

Ramon Porras
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