Chemical spill at BC

By BRENT S. RAY

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Monday morning, a four liter container of Cyclohexanone was knocked from a chemical cart. Cyclohexanone is an organic solvent capable of producing a toxicity, toxic and flammable gas.

The cart was being moved through the chemical stockroom in the North wing of the Science and Engineering building. Despite a three inch protective rubber guard on the cart, the battle reached to the ground.

For fear that the chemical would contaminate the rest of the building or the adjacent Science South Building, Ray Ward, head of the Physical Safety Office was dispatched to the problem developed.

"When the basic forms we weren't started what we had on our hands. It's like water, a little bit at first but if you gut a lot of it there can be complications."

"We phoned the Kern County Health Department water disposal section," stated Ward. "After we told them what had been spilled, they gave us some information on the toxicity level, the flammability and the upper level of the chemical we were dealing with."

"Cyclohexanone is kept on campus to give students a working example of an organic solvent," Ward also pointed out.

The fire department was then dispatched and responded to the call. Once there, they proceeded to conduct off the area and begin通风 from the building to reduce the danger of fire.

According to Ward the major was ultimately referred to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the proper procedure to be conducted for the major reason there was a high amount of simulated liquid. Ward commented, "Also because of the nature of the chemical, all of the floor tiles will need to be replaced in the stockroom."

For a brief time there was also the concern that the chemical might have spread to the faller shelter directly beneath the room. The worries were unanswerable, ward added.

By the end of the evening the North wing had been reopened and the most pressing the stockroom had been properly ventilated and was suitable for human habitation.

Although Ward could recite exact numbers, he felt few safety precautionaries should be taken in the future. "A great help in avoiding this type of thing would be for the manufacturer to place all potentially dangerous chemicals in some sort of shatter-proof container."