### SYNOPTIC:

On December 29, 2008 at approximately 1630, a flash fire occurred in the Molecular Sciences Building at the University of California Los Angeles. The incident occurred when the victim, SANGJI, was drawing t-butyl lithium from a bottle into a syringe and the plunger came out of the syringe barrel. The chemical, which ignites spontaneously in air, splashed onto SANGJI’s clothing, setting them on fire. SANGJI received burns to 40% of her body and was initially treated at Ronald Regan UCLA Medical Center. She was subsequently transferred to the Grossman Burn Center in Sherman Oaks where she died from her injuries on January 16, 2009.

Preliminary fire investigation was conducted by the Los Angeles City Fire Department at the time of the fire. Inasmuch as the fire scene had been compromised by the time I received notification, I was unable to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the fire. I reviewed the information furnished to me by JOHNSON and advised that I would complete a summary report based upon the investigation conducted by Los Angeles City Fire Department and representatives from the University. Investigation into the circumstances of the incident is also being conducted by Cal-OSHA. This incident is being referred to OSFM Fire & Life Safety Division for review of issues relating to fire code requirements regarding the storage, handling and use of chemicals.

### CASE DISPOSITION:

Closed, referred to Fire & Life Safety for further follow up.