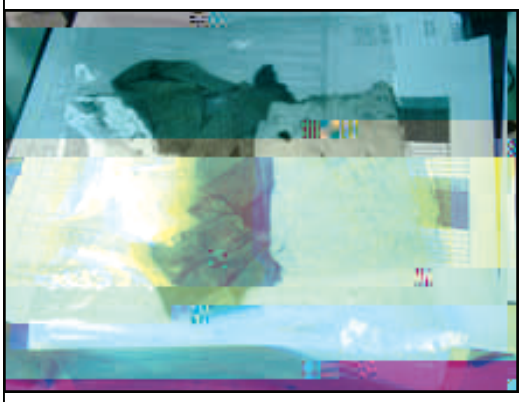
used strictly “in-house,” an MSDS would not be required, but employee protection should be addressed to ensure the safety of all.

Along with generating an MSDS for any samples that are being sent to another institution, remember that only personnel who have received adequate hazardous materials transportation training from the DOES office may ship the material. Per federal law, any container of hazardous material (biological, chemical, radioactive, and dry ice) *k*

by Mary Ellen Scott, PhD

Not many of us think about the time and cost involved with hood repairs, at least not very often. Yet, when repairs are needed they are expected to be done immediately if not sooner. At least one repair can be effectively eliminated with just a little attention to a common work practice. When working inside the hood, control the loose fly away items (e.g., kim wipes, paper towels, paper mattings, etc.) by using a little tape to anchor the items or by removing the items after completing the work. In Figures 1 and 2, note the pictures of a few paper towels and kim wipes that were lodged in a hood VAV valve 30 feet down the line from the offending hood.



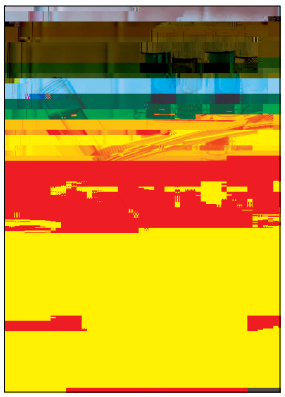
Figures 1 and 2: **Materials Retrieved from Fume Hoods**
Source: Joe Nikstenas

So what's the big deal? The "big deal" is that it costs the Case community time and money to repair the fume hoods when simply properly using the equipment would avoid these problems.

Below is a list of all the steps that was needed to complete this repair:
1. A call from the researcher because hood is making an alarming sound;
2. Notification to safety to check and clear hood for repair;
3. Repair scheduled;
4. Hood was cleared and placed offline;
5. Lab shelving cleared and lights removed;
6. Two technicians were needed to trace blockage (they must drill into the vent at several places and run a camera inside the vent each time to locate block);
7. Lab items removed and VAV valve reset;
8. Replaced lab items on shelves, hood recertified;
9. Research resumed after one week

In the case above, the paper caused the sensitive and expensive VAV mechanism to malfunction, 40 hours of technical manpower was consumed, and research time diminished throughout the entire repair process. So avoid the fly-away cellulose in the hood; use paper only when necessary and remove the loose paper from the hood

(continued on page 5)



(continued from page 3) ...when the task is completed. Also, be on the lookout for the packaging materials when opening packaged chemicals packed inside the hood. These light weight packaging materials can be easy swept up into the hood exhaust.

This age old proverb below reminds us that small actions can result in large consequences:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.
For want of a rider the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail