

Case involving chlorine gas generated during cleaning work in vegetable washing room



[Location of accident]

Sterilizing water generating system in vegetable washing room

[Cause of accident]

Sodium hypochlorite was taken from a container in the sterilizing water generating system and used to remove mold from the wall of the washing room and equipment. A worker accidentally poured the remaining sodium hypochlorite into an adjacent container of hydrochloric acid when attempting return it to its container, generating chlorine gas.

[Damage/injuries]

While no workers reported feeling ill during the subsequent evacuation or while the gas was being treated, a worker began to feel unwell after returning home and was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Extract from [Preventive measures]

[4] Perform risk assessments and implement adequate measures to minimize risks.



Riken Keiki Recommendations

We recommend deploying gas monitoring systems and implementing measures to minimize the risks associated with working in environments in which gas may be generated, as highlighted in risk assessments.