Minor demolition was being done in bldg 127. Some old pipes and an old oil recovery compressor were being removed in preparation for installing a new dry compressor. The technicians doing the job were familiar with the piping and other associated plumbing. They were also familiar with the hazards in the building.

During the tear-out phase, many 1 in. Swagelok mechanical fittings were removed to remove the piping. There happened to be a small volume of trapped pressure in between a set of filters and a check valve that was installed to prevent back flow. The filters had a blow down port for blowing oil and for relieving pressure.

When it came time to remove the compressor assembly, a 1 in. Swagelok fitting came off of the pipe between the check valve and discharge side of the compressor. This relieved the pressure into the technicians face area. The technician was wearing safety glasses and a face mask. When the pressure relieved, he turned his head and got some dust particulate matter into his eye behind the glasses and mask.