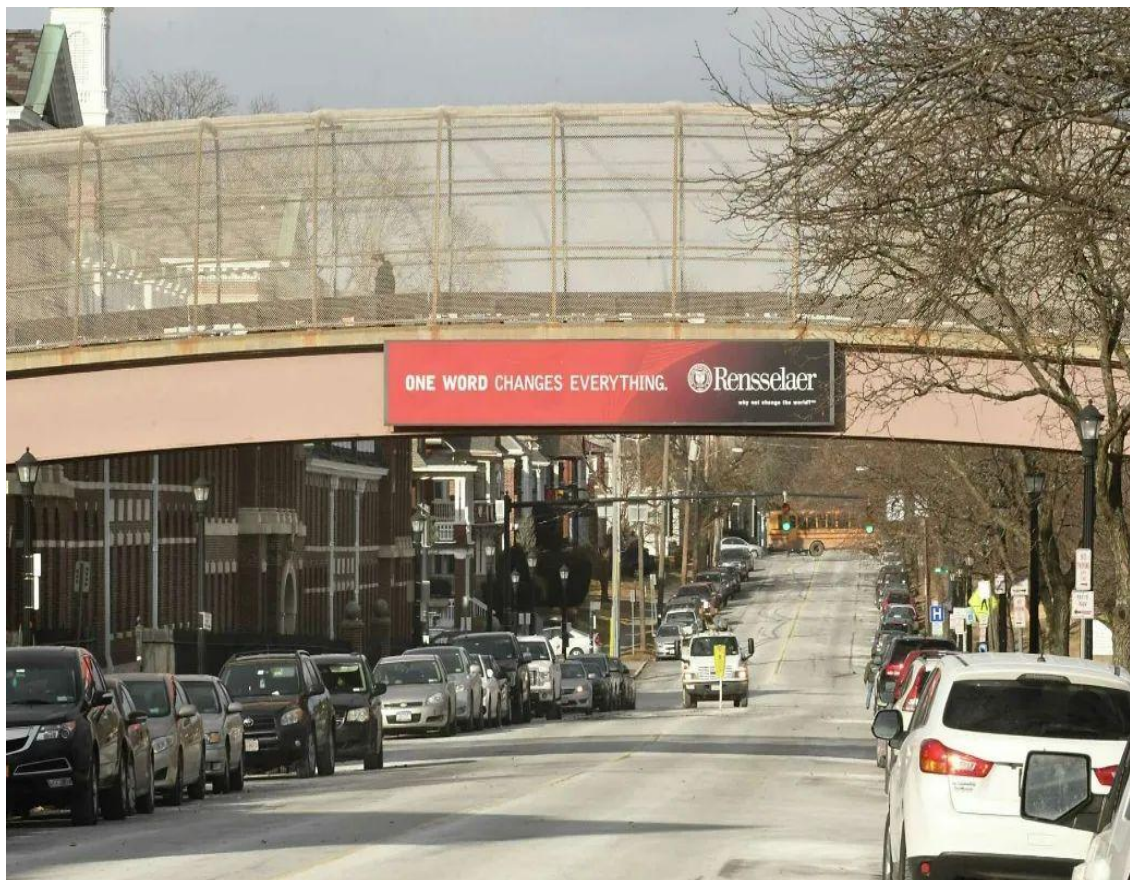


25 Years of Scientific Research Destroyed!

**Just because the janitor left the power on.
Millions of dollars in damage.**

Cleaner cleaning laboratory of a "casual action", but destroyed a top polytechnic university 25 years of research results! Recently, according to U.S. media reports, the U.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) filed a lawsuit against a cleaning company, the reason is: a hired cleaner for the "too noisy", turn off the power of the school's laboratory refrigerator, resulting in the destruction of frozen samples, and caused millions of dollars in losses!



Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), a leading private research university located in Troy, N.Y.

There is an ultra-low-temperature

refrigerator (-80 degrees Celsius) running in the RPI Chemistry and Biology Research Center building on September 17th. The refrigerator holds valuable experimental materials, including cell cultures, samples and other materials. It is the brainchild of K.V. Lakshmi, a professor in the university's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. She has been drilling for 25 years, mainly probing photosynthesis and has been instrumental in the development of solar panels.

K.V. Lakshmi



K. V. Lakshmi

Assistant Professor, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)

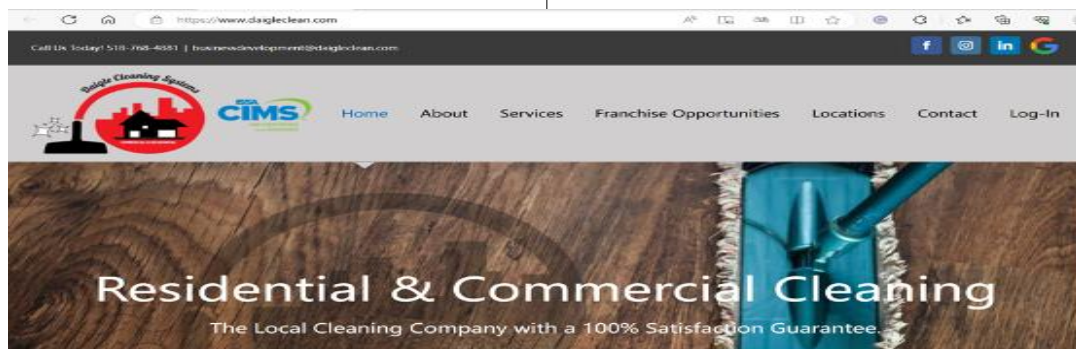
It is understood that there was a malfunction in the refrigerator, so the alarm sounded continuously. It is important to know that the material of this experiment is very "delicate", the temperature requirement is -80 °C. Temperature fluctuations can not be higher than -78 °C or lower than -82 °C, otherwise it will trigger the alarm.

A cleaner turned off the power to a refrigerator because it was "too noisy", causing the temperature inside to rise rapidly. Overnight, almost all of the samples in the refrigerator were damaged. The following day, researchers who discovered the situation rushed to "rescue" the situation, but things have been irreversible, 25 years of research is so destroyed. According to the university, this caused at least 1 million dollars (about 7 million yuan) of damage to the laboratory.

The cleaner belonged to an outsourced company - called Daigle Cleaning Services. The company was contracted by RPI to clean the university's facilities for the fall 2020 semester.

RPI took the company to court earlier this month for monetary damages. Until today, the company's president, Derek Foster, was unavailable for comment.

When questioned by RPI security, the janitor said he heard "annoying alarms" throughout the night and went to the electrical box; he thought he had opened the gate, but it was actually closed. Until the end of the interview, the cleaner did not realize that he had done anything wrong, and maintained that he was "just trying to help".



A sign in bold print in capital letters was posted on the freezer door: “THIS FREEZER IS BEEPING AS IT IS UNDER REPAIR. PLEASE DO NOT MOVE OR UNPLUG IT. NO CLEANING REQUIRED IN THIS AREA. YOU CAN PRESS THE ALARM/TEST MUTE BUTTON FOR 5-10 SECONDS IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MUTE THE SOUND.”



However, on September 14th, the refrigerator issued an abnormal alarm when the temperature was normal, and Prof. Lakshmi contacted a repairer to request urgent repairs. However, due to the epidemic, the refrigerator was repaired only on the 21st.

In the process, to prevent others from tampering with it, the researcher put a sign on the door of the refrigerator, purposely emphasizing in capital letters, "The refrigerator is under repair and will sound an alarm. Please do not move or unplug it. This area does not need to be cleaned. To silence it, press the ALARM or TEST MUTE button for 5-10 seconds.

RPI's lawsuit, filed in the New York State Supreme Court, Rensselaer County Division,

alleges that the cleaning company's inadequate training and supervision of its cleaners is what led to this scientific tragedy.

RPI's lawsuit filed in the Rensselaer County Division of the New York State Supreme Court alleges that the cleaning company's inadequate training and supervision of its cleaners is what led to the scientific tragedy.

And on the Internet, some netizens offered a different view. More than one netizen believes that the university is also responsible. For an important study worth one million dollars, the school did not protect its samples enough. The electrical box was just left open, and the cleaners could have easily turned off the power.