

Dec 1, 2015

Several years ago we evaluated some hand-held instruments (FTIR, Raman, XRF, etc.) for materials characterization (in the field).

A sample containing primary explosive (Hg fulminate, if I recall it right) was tested inside a glass vial (with the lid closed), by a Raman analyzer (through the glass wall), and sure enough the substance loudly exploded, crashing the container (no one was hurt, thankfully).

So it seems, as Felix already said, that pointing a focused high energy beam on an energetic material is probably not such a good idea...

Nadav Levin

I have been running low explosive particles on our SEM for almost 30 years (I realize not the same as primer) and have had to replace one window. Not really sure if it was the result of running these types of samples but that's been my experience.

Drugan, John (POL)

I remember at least two colleagues who reported a crashed EDS detector window with trying to analyze unburnt primer.

Is there anybody else who made this painful experience?

Karl Lueftl