Ammonium nitrate burning. An explosion of flames leaps out of a dish containing burning ammonium nitrate (NH₄N0₃). Ammonium nitrate is used in the manufacture of explosives and fertilisers. It was first used as an explosive by Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize, who used it in his dynamite mixtures in 1875. Separations, particularly chromatographic, are important for the characterization of explosives, particularly in forensic contexts. (Reproduced with permission from Science Photo Library.)