

CHEMICAL SAFETY MOMENT

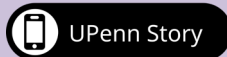
Issue 54 – November 2020

UPenn Vacuum Cabinet Fire



The fire occurred when a power switch ignited vapors that had accumulated in a vacuum pump cabinet.

The full story is available by scanning the QR code



Lessons learned:

- The vacuum pump exhaust was not properly vented.
- The vacuum pump may have been incorrect for the operation.
- A secondary cold trap was not used between the pump and experiment [rotovap] to minimize the amount of volatile chemicals reaching the pump.

NEEDLE-RESISTANT GLOVES



Accidental pokes and punctures can occur with the use of hypodermic needles. Increase your level of safety by using needle-resistant gloves.

Now available from the Fisher Storeroom, or contact EHS for more information.

Space Heaters are FORBIDDEN!

Portable space heaters are a potential source of fire if not used properly. EHS has determined that due to the increased fire risk, space heaters are **not permitted in University buildings**. If you feel that a University space cannot be adequately heated by the installed building heating (HVAC) system, please contact UD Fixit or your building manager to report the condition.



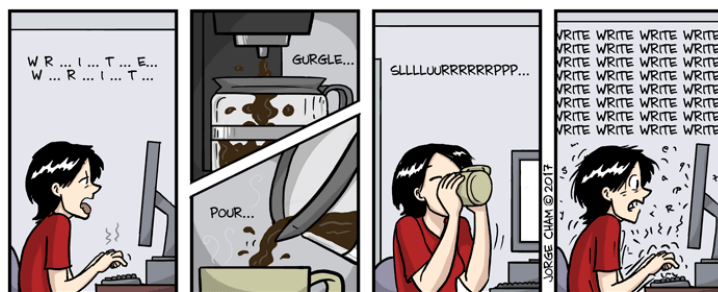
If Facilities deems the HVAC system inefficient in delivering the proper temperature to the space for a prolonged period, then Facilities HVAC may consider providing temporary heat that meets the approval of EHS and all applicable codes.

University Holidays and Closures

During the holiday season and University closures, the response time for emergency personnel [EHS] could be delayed. Stay safe by not running any high-hazardous operations during this time. If you are in the lab, be sure to use the BUDDY SYSTEM and never work alone!

November Dates:

Nov. 3rd & Nov. 23rd – 27th



WRITING: JUST ADD COFFEE.