

Bunsen Burner Safety Guidelines

Overview

Bunsen burners present fire hazards. They produce an open flame and burn at a high temperature. As a result, there is potential for an accident to occur. For the safety of everyone working in the laboratory, it is important that the following guidelines be observed.

Procedure

- **Know** where the location of and how to use a fire extinguisher (see attachment 1).
- **Place** the Bunsen burner away from any overhead shelving, equipment or light fixtures.
- **Remove** all papers, notebooks, combustible materials and excess chemicals from the area.
- **Tie-back** any long hair, dangling jewelry, or loose clothing.
- **Inspect** hose for cracks, holes, pinch points or any defect and ensure that the hose fits securely on the gas valve and the burner.
- **Replace** all hoses found to have a defect.
- **Notify** others in the laboratory that the burner will be in use.
- **Use** a sparker/lighter with extended nozzle to ignite the burner. Never use a match to ignite a burner.
- **Have** the sparker/lighter available before turning on the gas.
- **Adjust** the flame by turning the collar to regulate air flow and produce an appropriate flame for the experiment (typically a medium blue flame).
- **Do not** leave open flames unattended and never leave the laboratory while the burner is on.
- **Shut off** gas valve when its use is complete.
- **Allow** the burner to cool before handling.

For more information, contact the Environmental Health and Safety Office at 568-6585

FIRE EXTINGUISHER SAFETY

(How to locate and operate)

How to locate:

- Mandatory if working with natural/propane gas Bunsen burners.
- Visually scan the area you are working in and find the nearest fire extinguisher location.
- Ask your instructor if you cannot locate

How to operate:

Never fight a fire:

- If the fire is larger than the volume of a typical trash can.
- If you must fight the fire with your back to an escape exit.
- If the fire can block your only escape.

How to operate a fire extinguisher:

- Use the PASS method. (**P**ull, **A**im, **S**queeze and **S**weep)

