SAFETY BULLETIN

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

جامعة الملك عبدالله للعلوم والتقنية

Hot plate heats in "off" position

The purpose of this safety bulletin is to alert laboratory staff of a potentially dangerous condition found in Fisher Scientific Isotemp Basic Stirring Hot Plate that may cause the hotplate to heat up despite being set in the "off condition". The outcome could result in a possible fire, explosion or a runaway reaction.

Background

In February 2012 another case in KAUST was recorded through the **Incident, Near Miss and Hazard Online Reporting System** (reportit.kaust.edu.sa) A defective hot plate which overheated while the heat control was in the off position, melted a plastic container on the top during the night.

Recommended Actions

- All lab owners of hot plates should conduct a check to be sure that the heating plate does not heat up when in off position. You can contact LEM for additional support to check specific cases.
- Unplug hot plates, heating mantles or water baths from power when not in use, as ***this fault may develop without warning***.
- Add a label with the legend: "Unplug with not in use"
- Avoid unattended use of hot plates, heating mantles and water baths. When not possible, think out your safety plan to prevent fires or runaway reactions.
- Never leave flammable liquids or any other combustible liquids close to the hot plate. Flammables liquids should be kept in a flammable liquid storage cabinet, except when in use.
- Call 911 or 02-808-0911 immediately to report any fire or smell of smoke.
- Be sure to report all incidents, near misses, and hazards to the Health, Safety, and Environment Department at http://reportit.kaust.edu.sa.

Defective Models

✓ Fisher Scientific
- 11-202/50SH, 11-102/49SH (Reported here in KAUST)
- 11-600-49H, 11-700/49H

✓ Corning
- PC-200, PC-220, PC-400D, PC-420, PC-420D

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