

Isolation Valve Incidents

Purpose of the safety bulletin: To inform the research community about recent incidents involving gas lines leaking from behind wall panels within research spaces.

What Happened?

Over the months there have been reports mentioning “hissing” or “wheezing” noises coming from gas lines behind the laboratory casework panels. Upon investigation with Campus and Technology Park Services, all of the reported incidents involved a valve that malfunctioned which caused the noises and leaking.

Why did this happen?

The plastic isolation valve adaptors are corroding/degrading over time due to excessive amounts of volatile solvents in the vacuum lines. Solvent traps must be kept very cold in order to condense volatile vapors. Maintain solvent traps to maintain the in-house vacuum! The valves are also breaking due to age and general usage in the gas and air lines. Campus and Technology Park Services are replacing these valves as each situation is reported.



What should you do?

If you hear any noises coming from behind the wall panels or from any other areas from the laboratory, please contact the fchelpdesk by dialing 959 from the office phone or 808-0959 from your mobile.

FC Helpdesk

959 (from office)
012-808-0959 (from mobile)
fchelpdesk@kaust.edu.sa

If you have any questions, contact: researchsafety@kaust.edu.sa

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