



Occupational Health And Safety Unit

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15 December, 2003

TO: Senior Executives
Executive Officers
Heads of Schools and Sections
Workplace Health and Safety Officers
Workplace Health and Safety Representatives

RE: Hazard Alert – Prohibition of Domestic frypans in laboratories

Recently at the University, an accident occurred during an acid digestion which resulted in an acid splash to the researcher's face. Although not the direct cause of the accident, a domestic frypan was being used as a heating device. Several flasks with acid in them were heated in the frypan as part of the acid digestion.

The use of these devices for heating purposes within the university is PROHIBITED due to:-

- inability to maintain adequate temperature control;
- temperature variations which may occur in the pan due to the non-uniform design of the heating ring. This may lead to spontaneous boiling (bumping) of contents.

Domestic frypans should be replaced with a laboratory hotplate with a simmerstat control to effectively maintain temperature.

Please ensure that all domestic frypans are immediately located and removed from service.

Gary Chaplin
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