

U of R Laboratory Fire - Safety Advisory

Realize. **Safety** first.



Event:

Recently, a heat gun being used in an experiment was left unattended and started a fire in a laboratory. This is the 3rd fire in two years caused by heating equipment being left on. In all three cases we have been extremely fortunate that the fires were contained and no one was injured. These fires have resulted in significant equipment and property damage.



Recommendations for Lab Managers, Faculty Members & Deans to implement:

- Communicate to all personnel the critical importance of not leaving heating equipment unattended, if practical to do so. If heating equipment must be left on, ensure precautions are in place (i.e. elimination of all combustible materials from the immediate vicinity of the heat source).
- Ensure that the equipment being used is suitable for the purpose- in this most recent fire the heat gun was not being used for its intended purpose.
- Processes requiring the use of heating equipment should undergo a risk assessment to help select an appropriate heating source and ensure all safety precautions have been identified.

Please communicate this information to all personnel using high temperature equipment.

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