LABORATORY HEATING DEVICES

Laboratory heating devices such as hot plates and heating mantles may potentially overheat and catch fire if not properly maintained, properly used and/or left unattended. Heating devices without feedback controls or over-temperature limiting can spontaneously heat beyond the setpoint temperature. Moreover, the unit may still heat even when switched to “off” in the event of a malfunction since the switch does NOT disconnect the electrical source.

Safety Tips

- Replace damaged, malfunctioning and unreliable equipment.
- Maintain equipment through regular inspection, careful handling and proper storage.
  - Inspect the power cord for any damage to the insulation.
  - Ensure the ground prong is not missing.
  - Ensure the cord grommet/bushing is not missing.
  - Avoid pulling on the cord.
  - Ensure controls/switches are clearly labeled.
- Monitor the temperature until it reaches the desired temperature and stabilizes.
- Avoid leaving heating equipment unattended.
- Consider unplugging equipment when not in use and alternative equipment with safety controls.

Questions?

Contact ehs@yale.edu or 203-785-3550.