

Open Flames: Safe Practices

Open Flames. Sale Flactices		
DO		DO NOT
mitigat • Comple beginn	ise alternative equipment to be or eliminate flame usage. Hete all required training prior to ing laboratory work. an SOP that includes these stions: Shut off equipment or gas between uses. Have an emergency shut-off valve accessible to the user. If possible, use equipment that has a dimmer switch. Inspect all equipment before use. Check gas valve and hoses. Check for leaks. Keep the open flame away from combustible materials or flammable chemicals. Keep containers of flammable chemicals covered and closed. Notify others in the laboratory that an open flame will be in use. Wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE): lab coat (flame-resistant if possible), closed toed shoes, long pants, safety glasses (or goggles/face shield if there is a splash hazard), appropriate gloves. Tie back long hair, dangling jewelry, or loose clothing. Know where all appropriate emergency equipment is located and how to use it. (e.g. the correct class of fire extinguisher). Supervise open flame at all times. Contact EH&S for further guidance as needed.	 Do not leave the open flame unattended. Do not use an open flame or other ignition source near flammable chemicals and combustible materials. Do not use leaky or defective equipment. Do not use an open flame while working alone in the laboratory. Do not use an open flame or other ignition source on a surface recently decontaminated and still wet with ethanol; be sure that the surface has dried completely. Do not use an open flame in a biological safety cabinet (BSC). Do not attempt to put out a fire if sprinklers have activated. Do not attempt to use more than one fire extinguisher to put out a fire; if one was not enough, the fire is too large to safely extinguish alone.

