

Bunsen Burners

Description

This document outlines the handling and use of Bunsen burners.

Review this document and supply the information required in order to make it specific to your laboratory or classroom.

Bunsen burners produce a single open flame by burning a continuous stream of flammable gas.

Potential Hazard

Bunsen burners present burn and fire hazards due to the high-temperature open flame that is produced.

Work Practice Controls

Bunsen burner safety – best practice:

- PLACE the Bunsen burner away from any overhead shelving, equipment, or light fixtures.
- REMOVE all papers, notebooks, combustible materials and excess chemicals from the area.
- TIE-BACK any long hair, dangling jewelry, or loose clothing.
- INSPECT hose for cracks, holes, pinched points, or any other defect and ensure that the hose fits securely on the gas valve and the Bunsen burner.
- REPLACE all hoses found to have a defect before using.
- NOTIFY others in the laboratory that burner will be in use.
- UTILIZE a sparker/lighter with extended nozzle to ignite the Bunsen burner. Never use a match to ignite burner.
- HAVE the sparker/lighter available before turning on gas.
- ADJUST the flame by turning the collar to regulate air flow and produce an appropriate flame for the experiment (typically a medium blue flame).
- DO NOT leave open flames unattended and never leave laboratory while burner is on.
- SHUT-OFF gas when its use is complete.
- ALLOW the burner to cool before handling.
- ENSURE that the main gas valve is off before leaving the laboratory.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear standard laboratory attire including safety glasses and avoid wearing synthetic clothing.

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