HAZARD ALERT
Bunsen Burner Safety

DESCRIPTION
Bunsen burners can present a fire risk and burn hazard. The open flame burns at a high temperature and can ignite the surrounding materials resulting in serious damage and burns. A gas leak left undetected can pose an explosion risk and can cause damage and injury.

RISK RATING
Score: High Risk
Explanation: Consequence = Major
(Significant lost time injury/extremely serious/possible fatality)
Likelihood = Possible (Might occur)

ACTIONS FOR PREVENTION:
The following steps must be taken by all users to ensure personal and laboratory safety:

- Place the Bunsen burner away from any overhead shelving, equipment or fixtures.
- Ensure the Bunsen burner gas tap can be safely accessed without coming into contact with the flame.
- Remove all combustible materials from the work area before lighting the Bunsen burner.
- Any flammable liquids must not be stored on the bench where the Bunsen burner is used.
- Tie-back any long hair, dangling jewellery, or loose clothing.
- Regularly inspect the hose for any damage e.g. cracks, holes, pinch points and replace as necessary.
- Only use Westlab green square tubing designed for natural gas Bunsen burners. The tubing must be more than one meter in length.
- Check that the hose fits securely on the gas valve and the burner.
- Use a lighter to ignite the burner, never use matches.
- Do not leave open flames unattended.
- Shut off gas when finished using the Bunsen burner. If you smell natural gas, check the gas taps to make sure they are fully closed in the OFF position.
- Allow the burner to cool before handling.
- If unsure of the source of the gas smell or if you believe the gas taps to be faulty, hit the red Emergency gas shut-off button and immediately notify the building manager/Safety Officer/Supervisor.
- Know the location of the firefighting equipment in your area and the emergency protocols.
- In case of a fire only attempt to extinguish the fire if safe to do so. Activate the nearest fire alarm, notify all lab personnel and evacuate the area.

All staff and students using the Bunsen burners must be inducted locally and follow the local safe operating procedure.

More Information: Liz Holzschuster, Health Safety & Wellbeing Manager