

Flame Safety

Open flames present fire hazards. Bunsen Burners and other devices produce an open flame and burn at a high temperature (more than 2000 degrees F). Micro-touch burners are safer than Bunsen burners. There is always the potential for something to catch fire with any flame. Follow these guidelines to reduce the fire risk. In case of a fire, activate the nearest fire alarm pull station, notify all lab personnel, and evacuate the building.

- Place the burner away from any overhead shelving, equipment or light fixtures by at least 12 inches.
- Remove all papers, notebooks, combustible materials and excess chemicals from the area.
- Tie-back any long hair, dangling jewelry, or loose clothing.
- Only use tubing rated for gas. Don't use tygon tubing.
- Inspect hose for cracks, holes, pinch points or any defect. Replace all hoses found to have a defect before using. Ensure that the hose fits securely on the gas valve and the burner.
- Utilize a sparker/lighter with extended nozzle to ignite the burner. Never use a match to ignite a burner.
- Adjust the flame to regulate air flow and produce an appropriate flame for the experiment (typically a medium blue flame).
- Allow the burner to cool before handling.
- Ensure that the main gas valve is off before leaving the laboratory.



Shut off gas when done.

Do not leave open flames unattended.

Never leave the laboratory while the burner is on.



WARNING:

Never fill or empty any torch or lighter over a sink (or similar well) or surface depression. Butane gas is heavier than air and may collect in low spaces, and ignite if sparked. Always refill your torch in a well ventilated room and always allow gas to stabilize for 60 seconds before attempting to ignite.

Refer to EH&S Web Page (www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/lab) for details on these requirements