

Hazard Alert: Scald by Pressure Release



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

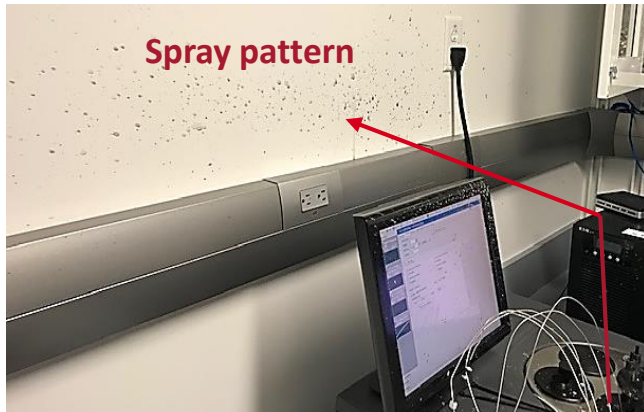
Intended audience: Laboratory Principal Investigators and Personnel

Incident summary

A high pressure release of a 121°C liquid caused a facial scald. An ampoule within a thermal analyzer over-pressurized unexpectedly, detached from its loading mechanism and ultimately ruptured upon attempted removal.

Investigation Findings

- Routine experiment with unexpected outcome
- Unplanned change in routine practice introduced a new hazard (pressurized ampoule)
- New hazard was not realized



Actions Taken

- Manufacturer user guides reviewed
- Procedure written to standardize process and call attention to potential hazard

Key Takeaways

- **PPE works! Lab coat, gloves and safety glasses prevented serious injury.**
- **When there is a change to routine practice – press pause and reassess for a change in hazard.**
- **Manufacturer user guides may be a useful source of safety-related information.**

Additional Resources:

Environment, Health & Safety webpage:

- Lab Safety Program
 - Standard Operating Procedures Standard
 - Standard Operating Procedures Template
- Personal Protective Equipment Program