

# LDEO LAB SAFETY GRAM

**03/06/2013**—This dangerous condition occurred as a result of a hot plate malfunction. The hot plate was reportedly turned off by the user, however, the unit did not actually cool down. Consequently, the hot plate, which was placed too close to the side of the fume hood, subsequently melted the plastic side of the hood. LDEO Safety contacted Fisher Scientific the manufacturer of the hot plate (Cat No. 11-100-100H) to inquire as to whether there had been any other such reports or recalls on this model; there were none.



## LESSONS LEARNED:

Hot plates need to be operated at a safe distance from combustibles surfaces, including fume hood interiors. The typical recommended safe distance is 12 inches. This distance should be increased when there are flammable chemicals being used within the hood. Additionally, it is worth noting for all who use a hot plate that some models (such as the one mentioned above) will have a flashing “Hot Temp” lite illuminated even when the unit is turned off until the surface temperature reached 50 C.

To help prevent such damage from a malfunctioning hot plate, Standard Procedure should be: When not in use the power cord should be removed / unplugged whenever possible.

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