



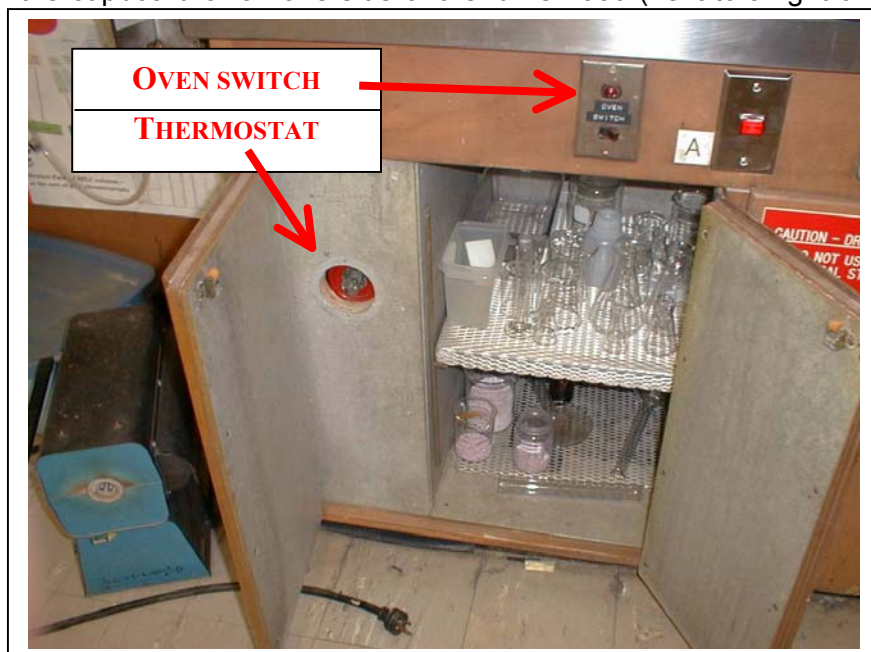
Hazard Alert – 02-004

OVENS UNDER FUME HOODS – SAFETY CONCERNS

This alert is intended for all identified owners of laboratory fume hoods with drying ovens underneath, as a result of a serious incident involving a malfunctioning oven under a fume hood and the subsequent investigation;

“A bottle leaked acid while stored in an under the fume hood drying oven. The oven was believed to be non-functional but controls apparently malfunctioned and it heated up. Luckily the spill was discovered on a Friday or the situation may have deteriorated over the weekend and a fire may have resulted!”

Many fume hood owners are not aware that one or both cupboards underneath their fume hood could be an oven. When present, ovens are usually controlled by a switch often located above the cupboard or on one side of the fume hood (next to a light or a fan switch). There is also a thermostat control on the left side of the oven cupboard.



The control is sometimes difficult to find as it may not have a dial, ‘calibrated markings’ or an ‘off’ position.

Please have the cupboard space below your fume hoods checked to see if it is an oven. **We are advising NOT to store chemicals and combustibles in this location. If in use, the space should only contain glassware. The oven temperature must not exceed 165 °F (73 °C).**

Due to the age and condition of these ovens, they need to be evaluated to ensure that they are in safe operating condition. The Physical Plant Department can be contacted at 474-8561 to do electrical inspections of the ovens to ensure they meet applicable standards.

Please feel free to contact our Office if you require further information on this issue.

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