

Be **Smart** About Safety

Environment, Health, and Safety
Risk Services
University of California Office of the President

SAFE-T- GRAM #6

LCD Projector Beam Nearly Cause a Fire

While preparing for a presentation, a University of California National Laboratory employee placed a notepad in front of a small desktop projector's light beam to dim the projector's light. See Figure 1.



Figure 1. Projector with notepad

A few minutes later the worker stepped out of the office for a short period of time. When the worker returned to the office, smoke was rising from the notepad and the projector. The projector lamp had burned a nickel-sized hole through notepad's cardboard backing and several pages of the tablet paper. See Figure 2.

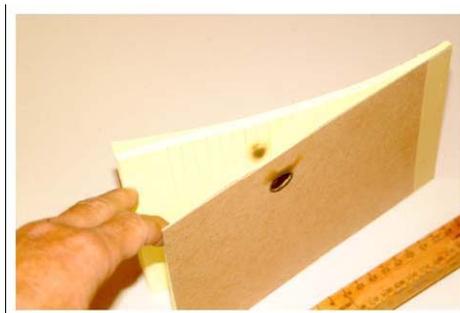


Figure 2. Burned notepad

Had the employee been delayed in returning to the office, a much more significant fire may have resulted.

What Was Learned

- Projector lamps become very hot when left on.
- Objects placed on or near a lit projector lamp may ignite.

Recommended Action

1. Never place an object in front of a projector's lamp when the beam is on.
2. Never leave the projector's beam on when you are not present in the room.

SAFE-T-GRAM

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