Mellon Hall
Safety Procedures for Overnight Experiments

When an experiment, or process, is proceeding overnight in an unattended condition, the following procedure must be utilized to minimize the potential for accidental damage in Mellon Hall:

1. Any unattended, overnight experiment that has the potential to generate water, smoke, odors or gases must be illustrated by a distinctive note posted on the hall door to the lab with the full name and contact information of the person conducting the experiment. This same information must be communicated, in writing, to Public Safety so they will know to open the door and determine if there are any obvious problems as they make their rounds overnight. Forms are available on the EHS corkboard (outside B-7 Mellon Hall).

2. Inside the lab, the Standard Operating Procedure must be present near the overnight experiment.

3. This notification to Public Safety is not intended to be a substitute for effective planning and management of each experiment.

4. The use of running water for cooling is to be avoided where possible by the use of self-contained water baths or alternative cooling mechanisms. Any laboratory which has the potential for water cooling of experiments shall review the economics of water cooling (by considering the full cost of water and sewage to the University) to a self contained water bath or other alternative.

5. Where there is any damage caused by incidents in any laboratory, as a result of negligence, carelessness or lack of planning, such lab will be expected to participate financially in addressing the cost of repair or remediation of such damages. The specifics of any such participation will be addressed on a case by case basis. In addition, any such lab may be shut down until all appropriate safety procedures are reviewed as part of a comprehensive incident investigation.