AUTOCLAVE HAZARDS

- Burns from hot metal, hot liquid, or steam.
- Pressure release (leak around door, steam on before door is closed, malfunctioning autoclave)
- Lacerations from broken glass
- Biohazard exposure from waste bags.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Train all users according to the manufacturers instructions.
- Conduct routine inspection and maintenance. In University buildings, contact Facilities Maintenance (684-2121). In medical center buildings, contact Engineering and Operations (684-3232).
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) appropriate for the hazard.
  - Long sleeved lab coat, long pants and closed-toe shoes.
  - Safety glasses, goggles or face shield.
  - Gloves: Thermal, liquid proof thermal, or exam.
- Use autoclavable containers for your material, such as Pyrex glass and orange biohazard waste bags. Unapproved materials can break or melt.
- Keep loads small and vented (to avoid overpressurization), and place into autoclavable trays to contain spills or broken glass.
- Open the door only when the cycle is complete and allow liquids to cool for 10 minutes before removing items.
- Keep the counter and floor around the autoclave free of clutter and promptly mop up water or other liquids to prevent slips.
- Never autoclave chemicals or radioactives.
- If using stacked autoclaves, use only the lower autoclave for liquids.