

## Lesson Learned Briefing

**No.:** LL11-0041

**Title:** Hot Water Burned Service Vendor's Thumb and Webbing Area

**Event:** LBNL Event

**Event Date:** 10/17/2011

**Category:** ES&H - Accident/Injury

### Lesson Learned Statement:

Hot water faucets that have the look of a standard cold water faucet may be mistaken as a cold water dispenser. It is best to replace these hot water faucets with a more typical hot water dispenser, and place warning labeling/signage that reads "HOT" at all hot water dispensers to minimize injury.

### Discussion:

In the afternoon of October 17, 2011, a service vendor for an Advanced Light Source (ALS) Associated Division was attempting to wash his hands after performing technical services at an ALS beamline. The vendor entered the ALS break area, the alcove close to BL6.1.2, to wash up at the sink. The vendor saw the large shiny faucet with the single spring-loaded handle and thought it was a regular cold water faucet (the "HOT" warning round labels were peeled off). Refer to the attachment - Photo #1. The vendor turned the water on as his left hand was placed under the faucet, and as soon as he realized it was extremely hot water, he instantly retracted his left hand. He found the adjacent regular faucet and immediately began running cold water over his burned thumb and webbing area. The associated division work lead was notified. The vendor was escorted to Health Services for observation and first-aid treatment.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

ALS took the following actions to prevent / minimize recurrence:

- (1) Inspected all other hot water dispenser locations around the ALS facility for similar installation.
- (2) Relabeled the hot water dispensers at BL6.1.2 and 11.0.1/2 alcoves and at Building 80 first floor and second floor kitchen sinks with warning labels; also covered each label with a layer of transparent mailing tape for waterproof purposes.

(3) Replaced the subject faucets and any others like it with the more typical hot water sink dispensers.

(4) Developed a more permanent warning signage/labeling solution by attaching to each hot water dispenser a waterproof and more durable metal tag with the word "HOT" in big letters. Refer to the attachment - Photo #2.

(5) Disseminated a Lab-wide lessons learned via the LBNL Lessons Learned / Best Practices Database.

**Priority Boxes:**  ORPS Reportable  OSHA Recordable  PAAA  Other

**ISM Code:** Analyze the Hazards

**Uploaded documents/attachments:**

[HotWaterFaucet\\_Before-After.jpg](#)

[Give feedback for this briefing](#)

For other lessons learned and best practices, go to [Lessons Learned and Best Practices Library](#)

---