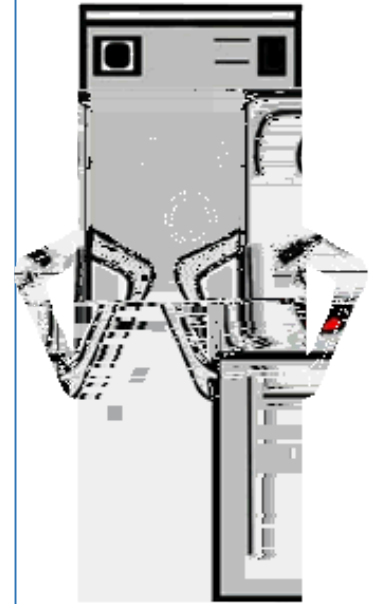


## Improper use of autoclaves

EHRIS recently investigated two autoclave incidents:

- ¾ Oily rag left in autoclave spontaneously combusted when exposed to air and heat. Smoke and fire triggered fire alarm.
- ¾ Thousands of paraffin wax samples were fully sealed inside autoclave bags, placed in shallow pans and autoclaved. Pressurized bags tore/deformed, paraffin wax melted and entered the building's sanitary sewer.



Anyone intending to use an autoclave must be trained and follow safe operating procedures

### Things to consider

- Do not autoclave: some plastics (e.g. LDPE, HDPE), solvents, paraffin embedded samples, flammable, reactive, volatile, corrosive, radioactive or toxic material;
- Autoclave bags must not be sealed; they should be loosely taped with autoclave tape;
- Don the appropriate PPE (thick heat-resistant gloves, eye and face protection) anytime the autoclave door is opened;
- When loading the autoclave: Place autoclave bags into an autoclave suitable secondary container to contain any material that could spill.