

# TECH TIP # 64



One of a series of dealer contractor technical advisories prepared by HARDI wholesalers as a customer service.

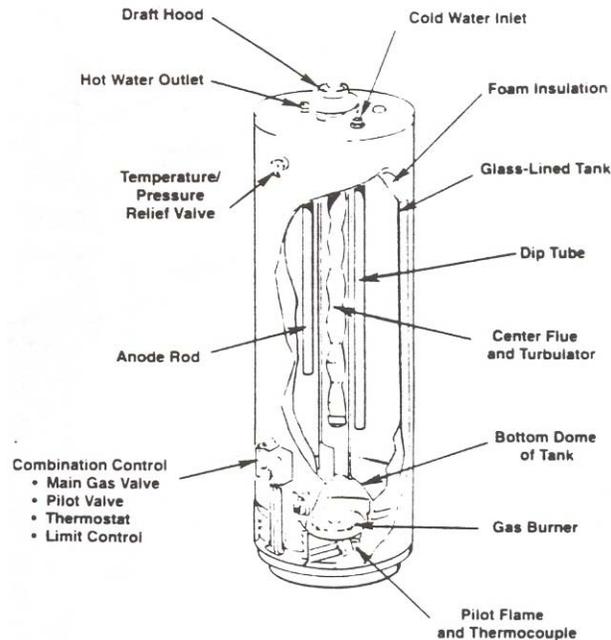
## Beware of Faulty Water Heaters and Boilers

*Source: The National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors*

Columbus, Ohio --- When contact with boilers and water heaters becomes routine, it's easy to take this potentially dangerous equipment for granted. Considering the potential damage a water heater or boiler can cause, it's important to recognize warning signs of trouble.

*(An overheated 30-gallon hot water tank contains enough energy to propel an average car to a height of nearly 125 feet.)*

A technician can quickly identify an overheating water heater when steam or a mixture of steam and water is being discharged at the safety valve or from an open hot water faucet. If this condition is found at the faucet, close the faucet.



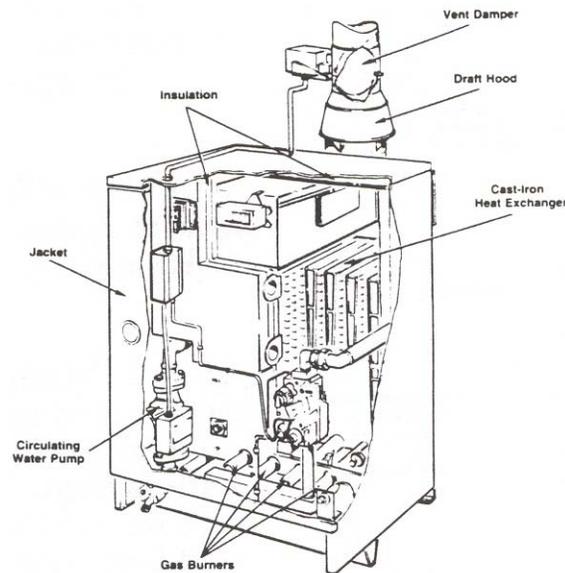
Immediately shut off the source of heat to the water heater. Allow the water heater to cool naturally without trying to add cold water.

Published by the Independent Study Institute, a division of the Heating, Airconditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International. The Institute offers accredited, industry training courses in HVAC/R technology. Direct inquiries to HARDI 3455 Mill Run Drive, Ste. 820, Columbus, OH 43026. Phone 888/253-2128 (toll free) · 614/345-4328 · Fax 614/345-9161

[www.hardinet.org](http://www.hardinet.org)

An overheating boiler may exhibit one or more of the following conditions:

- A discharging safety relief valve.
- Pressure and/or temperature readings above the maximum allowed for the boiler.
- Low or no water in boilers equipped with water level gauge glasses.
- Scorched or burned paint on the boiler skin casing.



When a boiler is overheating, the only safe intervention is to remove the source of heat by stopping the supply of fuel. In the case of electrically heated units, turn off the electric power to the unit.

- Do not try to relieve the pressure.
- Do not add water into the vessel -- let it cool naturally.
- Get away from the vessel. It's a potential bomb.