LCD Projector Beam Nearly Cause a Fire

While preparing for a presentation, a University of California National Laboratory employee placed a notepad in front of a small desktop projector’s light beam to dim the projector’s light. See Figure 1.

A few minutes later the worker stepped out of the office for a short period of time. When the worker returned to the office, smoke was rising from the notepad and the projector. The projector lamp had burned a nickel-sized hole through notepad’s cardboard backing and several pages of the tablet paper. See Figure 2.

Had the employee been delayed in returning to the office, a much more significant fire may have resulted.

**What Was Learned**
- Projector lamps become very hot when left on.
- Objects placed on or near a lit projector lamp may ignite.

**Recommended Action**
1. Never place an object in front of a projector’s lamp when the beam is on.
2. Never leave the projector’s beam on when you are not present in the room.