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Hot Flush!

Would you believe this warning: "Please don't flush the toilet while the reactor is running?" Believe it or not Knight News Service reports that this warning actually goes up from time to time on a bathroom door at the University of Florida's nuclear reactor building at Gainesville --and it's no joke.

The problem, says Knight, is that when the reactor is employed for low-risk training sessions and experiments, it uses a secondary cooling system which relies on water supplied to the same main that feeds the nearby bathroom. If someone happens to flush the toilet when the secondary cooling system is on, the water levels drop so low that

the reactor is reportedly in danger of being overheated and damaged.

Knight News reports that despite warnings, a number of student reactor projects have gone down the drain as a result of students flushing the hot seat when they shouldn't have.

Luckily enough, for the university and nearby residents, the riskier nuclear work at the university is cooled by a more powerful water system fed by a different campus well.

--Lancaster Press