

Time and Frequency Division had a near-miss that I'd like to report. One of our researchers was looking for potential heat sources in the lab. In the process of this, he was feeling various pieces of equipment to see how hot they were. He put his hand on a NIST NIM Bin (Nuclear Instrument Module Bin), which is basically a NIST-built power supply device that are prolific here in Boulder--and no, they are NOT "nuclear". He did not know that the caps that protected the -200V DC and +200V DC contacts were missing, and therefore managed to place his fingers on the -200V contact and his palm on the +200V contact. Luckily he was not injured nor burned. The researcher had inherited the NIM Bin, and we don't know why or how the caps were not present. They have since been replaced and the contacts are now protected.

The model of NIM Bin that he has is an older model. The newer models have these caps glued into place so that they cannot be removed (at least in theory). I have included pictures below of the NIM Bin bottom with the questionable caps, the front panel of the older models, and the front panel of a newer model.

Please inspect any NIM Bin that you or your Division might possess (to be safe, please inspect both older and newer models)

Bottom of NIM Bin showing where the caps were missing:



Front Panel of older model:



Front panel of newer model:

