



Kiln Safety Information

The safest way to fire the kilns is to use the delay feature. This is detailed in the Skutt instruction manual and available on the web at <http://www.skuttkilns.com/>. In a nutshell you program the kiln to the cone number and firing speed you want to use, e.g. cone 05, firing speed slow (for greenware). Once the kiln is programmed you press "delay" and enter the number of hours and minutes you want to delay the start of firing. If it's 3pm you can enter a delay of 1300 (13 hrs, 0 min) and the kiln will start firing at 4am. At that time you start the kiln and a digital clock starts counting down the time until the kiln starts the firing cycle (always hit the "review" button to double check what you have programmed into the kiln).

Kilns take a while to get hot and by that time custodians and teachers should be on site. By doing this the kiln would shut off by the end of the day. I don't recommend leaving a kiln firing at night. The digital controls are great and have several backups but I like to play on the safe side.

Source: Randy Hinson

TEACHER INPUT:

Computerized kilns are great but you want to ensure that the kiln shuts down as programmed. Once my kiln didn't shut off as programmed (something malfunctioned/ Randy ended up replacing the part) but I definitely over-fired that load.

Bottom line for safety: Be there when the kiln is in the upper temps and when it will be shutting off. You can delay the start until the early morning hours (even midnight- 1-2AM) The kiln won't be really hot when you arrive. I like to be there when it is over 1000-1200 for sure. You'll be running your kiln envirovent fan overnight- maybe you have one that autoshuts down...

And always- double check your kiln space for anything that can blow around, paper, etc. before you fire. I know we have a sprinkler system sprayer in the kiln room but I don't want to be the person that sets the school fire alarm off!

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