

safety in the Science Laboratory

Accidents happen every day in many activities. Statistically, most accidents happen in the home or while driving a car. Few accidents have occurred in the science classroom. However, in order to decrease the chances of any accidents occurring, all students and visitors to the science lab are required to follow the safety procedures listed below:

1. Horseplay, running, pushing, shoving, and practical jokes are a serious hazard in the science lab. There are many glass objects and chemicals that could be damaged or could injure you. Such behavior is not permitted.
2. Never eat or drink in the laboratory or from lab equipment.
3. Never taste chemicals for any reason.
4. Never perform an unauthorized experiment. Many chemicals emit dangerous gases or may explode if combined.
5. Never conduct experiments in the laboratory alone.
6. Confine long hair and loose clothing.
7. Goggles must be worn when engaging in or observing activities involving potential hazards to the eye.
8. All work surfaces in the laboratory should be cleaned after each use.
9. Never allow the open end of a heated test tube to be pointed toward anyone.
10. When alcohol is heated, it must be in a water bath in such a way that the container holding the alcohol is below the top of the water bath container.
11. When heating materials in glassware by means of a gas flame, the glassware should be protected from direct contact with the flame through the use of wire gauze.
12. Never touch any heating equipment or recently heated glassware. It may not look hot, but it could burn you badly.
13. Make certain that all hot plates and open burners are turned off when leaving the laboratory.
14. Broken or chipped glassware should never be used.
15. Never try to pick up broken glass. It should be swept up carefully.

16. Broken glass in sinks should be promptly removed as it presents a serious hazard to all using the sink.
17. Take great care in noting odors or fumes. Use a wafting motion of the hand. Never put a bottle to your nose and breathe deeply.
18. Never use mouth suction in filling pipets with a chemical reagent. Use a suction bulb.
19. Never force glass tubing or thermometers into rubber stoppers. Your teacher will instruct you on how to do this safely.
20. Never pour water into acid. Correctly dilute the acid by pouring it into water.
21. Direct viewing of the sun, infrared, or ultraviolet light sources should be avoided at all times.
22. Good housekeeping is essential in maintaining a safe lab. Keep your desk area and floor area clean. A piece of paper on the floor can be very slippery and could result in a serious fall.
23. Always wash your hands after lab exercises. Never put your fingers, pencils, pens, or any equipment used in the lab in your mouth.
24. Know the correct procedure for exiting the building in case of an emergency situation.
25. Note the locations of the following: (a) fire extinguisher (b) eye wash station and shower (c) first aid kit (d) fire blanket (e) main gas control valve (f) emergency exhaust fan
26. Report all injuries to the teacher immediately! Don't be afraid to tell the teacher of an accident because you broke a rule. The threat of infection and other side effects of an accident are more important than the reprimand the teacher will give you for breaking the rules.
27. In case of an emergency, do not run! Leave your books and other possessions at your desk, push in your chair, and leave by the nearest safe exit. Do not scream or yell unless no one else is aware of the emergency. If everyone knows the problem, screaming will only create confusion.
28. Contact lenses should **NOT** be worn while doing experiments unless permission is granted by the teacher for a particular activity.

In signing this, I acknowledge that I have read and understand these rules. I accept the responsibility in following these rules to prevent accidents that may harm myself or others.

(Student's signature)

(Date)

(Parent or Guardian's signature)

(Date)