

Lab Safety Guide

Sixth Grade Science



To the student:

The following rules and regulations are very important for your safety in the science laboratory. Your teacher is going to explain these rules to you, and you are to learn them. You will be given a safety test soon, and it will be necessary for you to answer all questions correctly. Please study the rules very carefully and ask the teacher to explain anything that you do not understand.

- Rule 1** Listen to your teacher and follow all instructions very carefully. This is the most important rule.
- Rule 2** Be on your best behavior in lab; this is the time to think and work; and not a time to play.
- Rule 3** Keep your hands and other materials away from your nose, mouth, and eyes.
- Rule 4** Wear safety goggles (removing contact lenses, if applicable) when:
 - a. working with heat in the lab
 - b. working with certain chemicals in the lab
 - c. your teacher tells you to
- Rule 5** Handle your lab equipment very carefully. Tell your teacher before doing anything else if something is broken or damaged.
- Rule 6** Mix chemicals only when you have teacher's directions to do so.
- Rule 7** Never mix two unknown chemicals; do not use substances that are not labeled.
- Rule 8** When mixing acids and water, always **add the acid last!**
- Rule 9** Turn the gas jets on only when the burners are to be used.
- Rule 10** Fasten long hair back during labs.
- Rule 11** When heating something, always heat slowly and keep test tube pointed away from you and others, holding it diagonally.
- Rule 12** If you are in doubt about what to do in lab ask your teacher.
- Rule 13** All lab equipment should be cleaned and returned after being used.
- Rule 14** Wash your hands thoroughly after each lab period.

Emergency Equipment

1. Eye Wash Station - provided in all labs to flood eye with water for 15 minutes to remove foreign materials and to dilute any harmful chemical. Know where these are located in your lab and how to use them.
2. Fire Blankets - these fire retardant blankets are provided in all labs. They are used to smother out a fire, can be used to wrap around an individual, smother a table surface fire, or smother a fire in a waste basket. Know where they are located.
3. Fire Extinguisher - provided in all lab areas, these are used to put out small chemical or paper fires. In case of major fires, signal alarm and evacuate building, using fire drill procedures.
4. Lab Showers – these are found in physical science labs. They are operated by pulling a release chain. Their purpose is to flood an individual's body in order to dilute a chemical spill or to extinguish a clothing or hair fire. Know their location.
5. Safety Charts - provided in all lab areas. It is important to read them. They will remind you of important lab procedures and safety precautions.
6. Safety Goggles - these are provided for each student. They can be the most important piece of safety equipment you use. They are vital to the safety of your vision. Wear them when heating, when working with chemicals or at any time you are instructed to do so by your teacher.
7. Gas Leaks - if you should smell the odor of natural gas in your lab room, immediately inform your teacher.
8. Microscopes - should always be carried with two hands. After use, the light should be turned off, the objectives on low power, the body tube all the way down and the cord wrapped around the base.
9. Material Safety Data Sheets - these sheets contain important information about the chemicals you use in lab. Know the location of the MSDS file.

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