Lab Safety Rules for 8th Grade Science

In order to be an active member of our science classroom you must learn science safety rules. The lab can be a dangerous place if proper safety rules are not followed at all times! Please be sure to review these rules for our science safety test. Students who do not pass the test will not be able to participate in lab.

Dress Code

1. Students must wear safety equipment on all lab days. Safety equipment includes goggles and an apron. Students must wear this equipment from the beginning of the period to the end of the period (even if you finish early).
2. Students with long hair should tie it back in order to keep it away from chemicals and burners.
3. Closed toe shoes must be worn for all labs. No sandals or flip flops!
4. Scarves, jewelry or any article of clothing that hangs down should be removed in lab.
5. Nylon jackets, mesh sports jerseys should not be worn in lab. They are highly flammable.
6. All goggles and aprons need to be returned to their proper hooks.

General Safety Rules

1. Read ALL directions before you begin an experiment. Follow directions exactly as they are written.
2. Never perform activities that are not authorized by your teacher. Do not experiment on your own.
3. Never handle equipment unless you have specific permission.
4. If a spill or break occurs, tell your teacher immediately.
5. Never eat in the laboratory. Wash your hands after each experiment.

First Aid

1. Report all injuries to your teacher immediately.
2. Know the location of the fire blanket, fire extinguisher, eye wash and nurse/emergency button.

Heating and Fire Safety

1. Never heat any chemical you are not instructed to heat. A chemical that is harmless when cool may be dangerous when heated.
2. Always maintain a clean table and keep all materials away from flames. You will usually need only your lab out on the table.
3. Never reach across a flame and keep your face a safe distance from the flame.
4. Use “Hot Hands” or tongs to handle hot glassware.
5. Charred wood splints are placed into the strainers. Never drop them into a trash can! This is a fire hazard!

**Alcohol Burner Safety**

1. Never leave a lighted burner UNATTENDED.
2. Before using a burner check for cracks, 2/3 full of alcohol, wick.
3. Never fill burners at your table or near an open flame.
4. Do not walk with a lighted burner and do not light another burner with a burner.
5. 1 burner per group.
6. Teachers light burners and inspect lab set up.

**Chemical Safety**

1. Dispose of chemicals as instructed by your teacher. To avoid contamination, never return excess chemicals to their original containers.
2. Do not mix chemicals unless instructed to do so.
3. Never touch, taste or smell any chemical that you do not know for a fact is harmless. Many chemicals used in this lab are poisonous. If you are instructed to note the smell of a chemical, gently wave your hand over the opening of the container and direct the fumes toward your nose. DO NOT inhale the fumes directly from the container.

**Glassware Safety**

1. Use a burner stand for heating glassware.
2. Never heat a test tube or flask completely dry. The glass will crack.
3. Never use broken or chipped glassware. If glassware breaks or is broken notify the teacher and dispose of the glassware in the proper container.
4. Make sure to clean and rinse glassware thoroughly before putting it away.
5. Transport test tubes in a test tube rack.
6. Use thumbs to remove stoppers from test tubes.
7. Never push on a glass bend to insert the apparatus into a test tube.
8. Boiling chips are placed in the strainer located in each sink. Never dump them into the sink directly.

**End of Experiment Rules**

1. When an experiment is completed, always clean up your work area and return all equipment to its proper place. Remember to check your sink!
2. Under no circumstances is any equipment to be removed from the laboratory.