

Laboratory Safety

- Listen to instructions given carefully. Don't create your own lab.
- Read over lab sheet first and ask questions about anything that is unclear.
- Clear your workstation of any clutter - books, paper, pens etc not needed to perform the lab. Also, keep aisles clear of bags etc.
- Avoid horseplay. Even if in fun, someone can get hurt. There is no such thing as a "harmless push".
- Broken glass should be cleaned up immediately into a "**sharps**" container. **Never into the regular garbage can.**
- Wear proper attire- no baggy clothes, open toe shoes or long jewelry
- Tie back long hair
- Notify me of any accidents, spills, or broken equipment immediately. **Do not** try to cover up an accident. They do happen but need to be properly cleaned up.
- If any area of your body or clothing has been touched by acid or another harmful chemical, flush it with lots of water at the sink. If your eye has been affected wash it continuously for 15 minutes at eye wash station.
- Never taste chemicals or drink from laboratory glassware. When handling chemicals, keep your hands away from your face, especially your eyes and mouth.
- If you wear contact lenses or have allergies inform the teacher.
- Beware of what may look like drops of water on laboratory benches. They may be dangerous liquids. Use damp paper towel and soap to clean them up. Lab tables are **not** to sit on.
- If there is a large spill of acid or base, inform the teacher immediately.

- A common injury in a lab is a burn. If you burn yourself wash the area immediately with cold running water for ~ 15 minutes
- Always wear safety glasses when told to. Prescription eyeglasses ok
- Use the fume hood when working with chemicals that produce toxic gases
- If you experience headache or nausea in the laboratory, inform your teacher right away.
- Keep flammable liquids away from any open flame.
- When heating substances in a test tube, always ensure the open end is pointing **AWAY** from any other person.
- Know the location of the fire extinguisher, fire alarm, fire blanket, first aid kit and chemical spill shower.
- When identifying a chemical by its smell - use **wafting**
- Bunsen burners or alcohol burners - make sure fittings and hoses are snug. Don't lean over them. Don't leave them unattended while lit.
- Make sure hands are dry when you plug in or unplug equipment. Report frayed cords to the teacher.
- **ALWAYS USE COMMON SENSE**
- **ALWAYS** clean you workstation after labs. This is your responsibility.
- **WASH** your hands after each lab
- **Students shall not bring FOOD into the classroom ever!**