

## LAB SAFETY

Safety is the **most important** concern in the chemistry lab. Therefore, it is vital that you pay close attention to safety policies and procedures. Your actions in the lab will not only affect you, but will often affect the safety of your neighbors in the lab. Note that a brief quiz regarding lab safety will be given in lecture.

- **MEDICAL CONCERNS:** If you have a medical condition or allergy that might affect your ability to participate in certain lab activities, please notify your instructor. We will make every possible effort to ensure your safe participation or exclusion from any lab activities that present a specific danger. Some examples- a latex allergy, a pregnancy (certain chemicals should not be handled by pregnant women), a physical condition which impairs motor function (a broken wrist, for example).
- **SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES:** On the first day of lab, your instructor will point out fire exits, fire extinguishers, fire blanket, eye wash and safety shower. Pay close attention to the location and usage instructions. Instructors will begin each lab with instructions pertinent to that week's experiment. Follow safety instructions closely.
- **READ THE EXPERIMENT:** Before coming to lab each week, you should review that week's experiment to familiarize yourself with the procedure. This will enable you to complete the experiment correctly, safely, and efficiently.
- **NO FOOD OR DRINK OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED IN THE LAB!**
- **WALK!:** The lab will be crowded at times. Walking- rather than hurrying to finish up early- will minimize the chance of an accident.
- **BE AWARE OF OTHERS:** Your bunsen burner may not be on, but your neighbor's might be, or he might have a beaker full of caustic liquid a little too close to your elbow...
- **DO NOT LEAVE A FLAME UNATTENDED!**
- **SAFETY GOGGLES:** Goggles must be worn **AT ALL TIMES- NO EXCEPTIONS.** New York state requires goggles to meet certain specifications; therefore, any goggles worn in the lab must meet these requirements. Glasses do not count as protective eyewear.

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- **APPROPRIATE LAB ATTIRE:**
  - Failure to wear safe clothing to lab may result in the student being asked to leave lab, and will count as an unexcused absence.
  - Exposed skin is in danger of coming into contact with caustic chemicals; thus, the preferred clothing for lab is long pants and a long-sleeved shirt. Sleeves should not be loose (leave the pirate shirt at home, please!).
  - Long hair should be pulled back when in lab.
  - No open-toed shoes of any kind are allowed (sandals, flip-flops, etc.)
  - Safety Goggles, of course!
  
- **IN CASE OF:**
  - **ANYTHING-** Always notify your instructor whenever something unexpected occurs.
  - **SPILLS-** Contain the spill. Notify instructor of spill's location and identity and follow his/her instructions for clean-up.
  - **FIRE-** Notify instructor. In the case of a small fire. It may be smothered or extinguished with the fire extinguisher. For larger fires, evacuate the building according to the posted plan.
  - **BROKEN GLASSWARE:** Notify instructor. Sweep up broken glass and place in waste basket at the front of the lab. Obtain replacement equipment from instructor.
  - **CHEMICAL SPLASH ONTO YOUR BODY-** Notify instructor. Rinse with copious amounts of water. If splash is in eyes, use eyewash.
  
- **HOUSEKEEPING:**
  - Keep the lab bench free of anything not needed for the experiment you are performing.
  - Keep the walkways clear of bags, backpacks, etc.
  - Once you have finished your experiment, clean or dispose of equipment according to the instructions given at the beginning of lab.
  - Properly dispose of all waste material in the containers provided.
  - Leave your workspace neat and clean.