

Shorewood High School Science Department Lab Safety Guidelines

The science laboratory is an enjoyable, exciting place to work and learn, but it can also be a dangerous place. It is your responsibility to protect yourself and other students by conducting yourself in a mature and safe manner at all times in the laboratory. Familiarize yourself with the following safety guidelines then sign and return the safety contract before participating in the laboratory.

GENERAL SAFETY

- Only those laboratory activities for which the teacher has given instructions and permission should be performed.
- Only materials and equipment authorized by the teacher should be used.
- Follow any special instructions given by the teacher for each lab. In many cases, specific guidelines must be adhered to due to the nature of the materials and equipment used.
- Never eat or drink in science classes.
- Wear safety goggles when working with chemicals, heat, glass, or whenever instructed to do so. Prescription glasses and sunglasses are not considered safety goggles.
- Dress properly for laboratory. Tie back long hair and avoid loose-fitting sleeves and bulky outerwear. Wear a lab apron when working with chemicals or hot material.
- Wash your hands with soap and water every time you leave the laboratory.
- Dispose of materials only as instructed.
- Report all accidents or injuries, no matter how minor, to your teacher immediately.

CHEMICAL SAFETY

- Never taste, touch or smell any substance in the laboratory without specific instructions. When smelling anything in the lab, wave the air above the substance towards your nose and sniff carefully. Do not inhale the fumes directly.
- Use materials only from containers that are properly labeled.
- Notify your teacher immediately of all spills; special cleaning procedures may be used.

HEATING SAFETY

- Know the locations of fire extinguishers and fire blankets.
- Point the mouth of a test tube away from others when heating.
- Never leave a Bunsen burner or any hot object unattended and never reach over a flame.
- Use tongs or appropriate insulated holders to handle hot laboratory equipment.
- Keep flammable materials away from open flames.

GLASSWARE SAFETY

- Inspect glassware before use, never use cracked or chipped glassware.
- Do not force glass tubing or thermometers through rubber stoppers.
- Clean up broken glass using tongs or a brush and dustpan, never with your bare hand.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Never use electrical equipment around water; don't operate electrical equipment with wet hands or while wearing wet clothing.
- Inspect all equipment for frayed cords before use.
- Follow specific instructions given by your teacher.