

## **Physical Science Laboratory Safety Guidelines**

The physical science lab is a restricted area which means only enrolled students are allowed in this area. Students are not permitted into the storage room unless given specific permission by your instructor. Ensuring safety in the laboratory is the responsibility of everyone working in the lab. Please follow these guidelines for your safety and the safety of your fellow students.

- 1) **Use common sense when working in the lab.**
- 2) Be prepared for your work in the lab; read all procedures prior to the lab.
- 3) Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
- 4) Do not eat or drink while working in the lab.
- 5) Always wear close-toed shoes in the lab.
- 6) Wear safety goggles whenever working with chemicals or when there is an impact risk.
- 7) Keep long hair and papers away from flames, hot plates, and chemicals.
- 8) Rinse used matches with water before placing in trash.
- 9) When burners or hot plates are being used, caution should be exercised to avoid thermal burns. If you sustain a thermal burn, immediately flush the area with cold water and notify your instructor.
- 10) **Any accidents or injuries that occur in the lab must be reported to the instructor at once.**
- 11) Know where the fire extinguisher and gas shut-off valve are located.
- 12) **The telephone is for emergency use only. In case of emergency, dial 7 to reach the school operator who will contact emergency personnel.**
- 13) Broken glass must be reported to your instructor; do not put glass in the trash.
- 14) Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth, and body while working with chemicals. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing experiments.
- 15) **It is your responsibility to maintain a neat and clean lab.** Return lab supplies to appropriate locations, clean all glassware, clean your area, and push in your chairs before leaving the lab.
- 16) When removing an electrical plug from an outlet, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
- 17) Follow specific directions regarding all chemicals used during each lab. Check the label on chemical bottles to be sure you are getting the correct substance.
- 18) If any chemical comes into contact with your skin, immediately flush the area with water for several minutes and notify your instructor. Note that a strong base may only feel soapy on your skin but will still cause a severe burn.
- 19) Note the location of the eyewash (if available). If any chemical is splashed into your eyes, hold eyelids open and flush with water for 15 minutes. If no eyewash is available, flush with pure water.
- 20) Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Do not pour chemicals down the sink unless told to do so by your instructor.
- 21) While doing a lab outside, it is your responsibility to warn others of any dangers (such as falling objects).