# A Special Message on Safety

SAFETY should be FIRST in the minds of administrators, teachers, and students actively involved in a science program. Everyone in the school community shares the responsibility for safety and for the enforcement of safety regulations and laws. With careful planning and instruction, a safe and healthful environment can be established in your science class.

You are encouraged to develop and maintain a safety program from the outset of this chemistry course. The information contained in the safety section will aid you in accomplishing this important task. The information is not intended to be all-inclusive, for no publication can list safe practices for science laboratories that will cover every situation. Nor should the information be read as legal requirements, but as suggestions and recommendations for the establishment of a safety base on which to build. A bibliography on page 14 lists several sources that give detailed coverage of individual or multiple topics on safety. You are encouraged to review these publications and keep them on hand in your safety library.

Prudent foresight, proper planning, and continued care must be exercised by everyone. Following the recommended safeguards and heeding the precautions included in this lab course will help you learn good safety skills.

## Safety Regulations

To ensure that a safe and healthful environment is maintained when following the *Modern Chemistry* laboratory course, all students should read and follow the safety regulations listed below. To indicate that you have read and understood the safety regulations, you are asked to sign and date this list upon completion of this important task. Space is provided on page 2. You should check to see that your lab partner has likewise read and signed the safety regulations, for you will be allied closely while working together in the laboratory.

1. Safety goggles, apron, and gloves should be worn by everyone (including visitors) upon entering the science laboratory.
2. Contact lenses should not be worn in the laboratory because there is a possibility that chemicals may infuse under the contact lenses and cause irreparable eye damage.
3. You should prepare for each laboratory lesson by reading all instructions before you come to class. Follow all directions and review with your teacher the safety precautions needed to conduct the experiment safely before you begin. Only materials and equipment authorized by your teacher should be used.
4. Everyone should be alert and proceed with caution at all times in the laboratory. Take care not to bump another student, and remain at your lab station while preforming an experiment. An unattended experiment can result in an accident.
5. Your apparel should be appropriate for laboratory work. Long hanging necklaces, heavy jewelry, and excessive and bulky clothing should not be worn in the laboratory. Cotton clothing is preferred over nylon, polyester, or wool.
6. Only lab manuals and lab notebooks are permitted in the working areas. Books, purses, and such items should be placed in your desk or storage area.
7. No food, beverage, or smoking is permitted in any science laboratory.
8. NEVER taste chemicals. NEVER touch chemicals with your hands.
9. Extreme caution should be exercised when using a Bunsen burner. Keep your head and clothing away from the flame and turn off the Bunsen

burner when it is not in use. Gas burners should be lighted only with a sparker in accordance with your teacher's instructions. Before leaving the laboratory, check to see that all gas valves and hot plates are turned off.

10. You should know the proper fire drill procedures and the locations of fire exits.
11. Work areas and apparatus should be kept clean and tidy. At the conclusion of each laboratory experiment, always clean and wipe dry all apparatus, desks, tables, or laboratory work areas.
12. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap at the conclusion of each laboratory period.
13. You should know locations and operations of all Safety Control Equipment listed on pages 6 and 7.
14. You should study and examine the Safety Sketches and Techniques on pages 9 through 11 and review them with your teacher.
15. Experiment 1 should be performed and each part completed as instructed by your teacher before you do any other experiment. The safety precautions stressed in each part should be discussed and followed by everyone when working in the laboratory.
16. Everyone should recognize and heed all safety symbols and cautions incorporated in the procedures of the laboratory experiments.
17. All accidents should be reported to the teacher immediately, no matter how minor.
18. **NEVER WORK ALONE IN THE LABORATORY.** You should only work in the laboratory while under the supervision of your teacher and with your assigned class.

I, _____, have read and agree to abide by the safety regulations as set forth above and also by any additional printed instructions provided by the teacher and/or district. I further agree to follow all other written and verbal instructions given in class.

_____ _____

Date Student Signature

_____

Parent Signature

Student Name (printed): _____