

## Laboratory Safety

1. Be aware of what is going on around you at all times.
2. **Wear your safety goggles at all times** in the laboratory whenever **anyone** is working. Avoid wearing contact lenses in the laboratory, although they are not illegal.
3. Work under the fumehood whenever possible. Assume everything you work with is toxic, flammable, and bad smelling, unless told otherwise.
4. Learn the location of all safety equipment before needed. Laboratory fire extinguishers usually are the CO<sub>2</sub> type because they are compatible with most laboratory fires. Learn the proper use of the fire extinguishers. Small fires can often be put out with an inverted beaker or watchglass. Do not attempt to put out a large fire with anything but the fire extinguishers. Be extremely careful with open flames (Bunsen burners). Know what solvents those around you are using. If you spill a significant amount of chemical on yourself, you need to use the safety shower. Remove contaminated clothing and flush the effected area for 15 minutes. Wash contamination (10-15 minutes) from eyes using the eye wash station. Report all accidents including what you might consider minor.
5. Burns, both chemical and heat/fire related, should be washed with plenty of water. Do not use soap, creams or lotions to treat the affected area.
6. Small chemical spills (<400 mL) may be cleaned up with paper towels, sand or an **appropriate** absorbent. Larger spills must be reported. Extinguish all flames if the chemical is flammable. Avoid reactive combinations when disposing of the chemical.
7. Never work in the laboratory without the permission or presence of the instructor.
8. Do not eat, drink, or smoke in the laboratory. Be careful about transferring chemicals on your fingers to your mouth or eyes. Never pipet by mouth.
9. Know what you are going to do before coming to the lab. Read the experiment several times and take notes. What you don't know **can** hurt you. If you don't understand something, ASK!
10. Nobody is allowed in the prep room to get chemicals or glassware. Do not perform unauthorized experiments.
11. Wash down your lab bench **before** and **after** the lab. You never know what might have been spilled by the last person. Keep your area clear of clutter such as backpacks and books. Chairs or stools are not allowed in the laboratory in order to keep the aisles clear.
12. Dress appropriately. Old clothes or a lab coat is a good idea. Cover yourself up. No shorts or sandals, even in the summer. Long hair must be tied back.