

general laboratory safety rules

The following is a suggested checklist of safety rules in K-12 science laboratories.

1. No running, roughhousing, pushing, or other disturbing activities during class or lab. These actions can easily cause accidents.
2. Do not eat, drink, or chew gum while in the laboratory.
3. Always wear all personal protective equipment, (PPE) such as goggles, lab aprons, and gloves.
4. Immediately inform teacher of accidental spills or breaks.
5. Know where all laboratory exits are located, as well as safety equipment such as showers, eye wash stations, fire extinguishers, spill clean up kits and fire blankets.
6. Read all instructions BEFORE beginning any laboratory experiment or investigation.
7. Never handle any equipment in the laboratory that is not directly related to the experiment or investigation that you are performing and explicitly laid out by your teacher.
8. Tie back all loose hair and clothing. Loosely fitting sleeves or dangling hair can catch fire or cause accidental spills within the laboratory. It is also good practice to always wear closed toed shoes when working in the laboratory.
9. Always wash hands prior to leaving the laboratory.
10. Know where emergency phone numbers are located in case of emergency.