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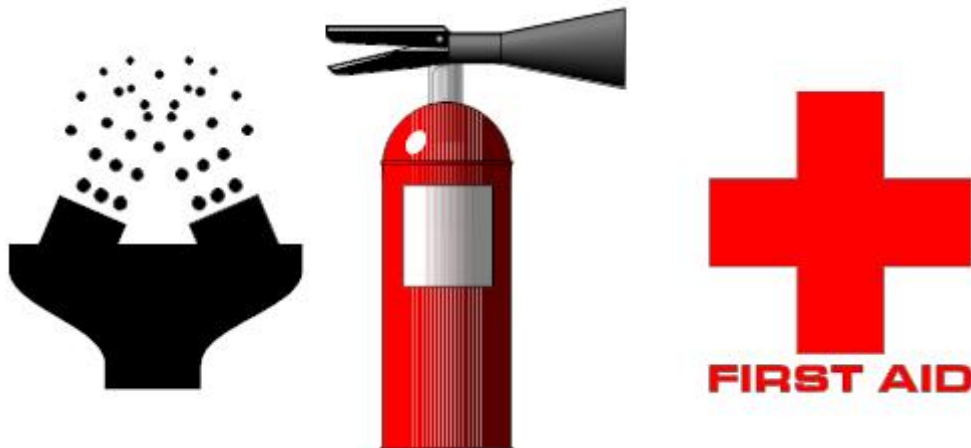
Laboratory and Field Safety

It is important to always be aware of all safety precautions that should be taken when performing any kind of scientific investigation.

There are many safety precautions that should be observed during a scientific investigation. Many of these precautions are listed below.

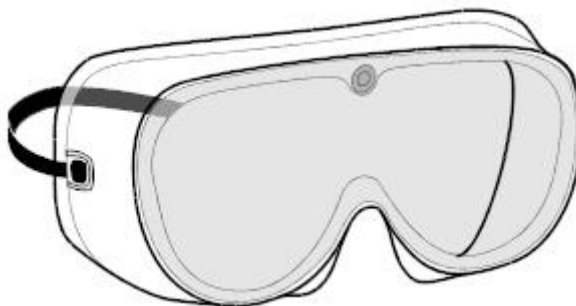
General Lab Safety

- Read the entire lab procedure before you begin an experiment.
- Only perform the assigned experiment when the teacher has given you permission to do so, and when the teacher is supervising.
- Only bring necessary materials into the lab area; keep your work area uncluttered.
- Know where all the safety and emergency equipment (e.g. eyewash station, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, first-aid kit, etc.) is located in the lab.



Personal Safety

- Always wear closed-toe shoes, safety goggles, a protective lab apron or lab coat, and protective gloves when working in the lab.



- If possible, wear clothes made of cotton. Synthetic materials can melt onto your skin if they catch fire.
- If a chemical gets in your eye(s), go to an eyewash station and flush your eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. Notify the teacher.
- Tie back long hair, and roll up loose sleeves.
- Never eat, drink, or apply makeup in the lab.



- Do not touch your face or eyes while conducting an experiment.
- If you have to cut something, cut in a direction that is away from your body.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after completing experiments.

Chemical Safety

- Never taste any chemicals in the lab.
- Avoid contaminating stock solutions; never return unused chemicals to their original container.

- Do not directly inhale any gas or vapor; use your hand to waft the fumes toward your nose.
- Always pour an acid or base into water, not vice-versa. Use the mnemonic A&W to help you remember that you should add Acid to Water, not water to acid.
- Report any chemical spill to your teacher immediately.

Glassware, Heating, and Electrical Safety

- Do not use glassware with cracks and chips; ask the teacher for a replacement.
- Never insert glass tubing into a rubber stopper without teacher permission.
- Never use electrical equipment with a damaged cord.
- When heating chemicals in a test tube, point the opening of the test tube away from yourself and others.
- Use tongs or insulated gloves to hold or pick up hot objects.



Field Safety

- Notify the teacher of any allergies or medical conditions that you may have prior to going into the field.
- Don't touch any plants or animals without the teacher's permission.
- Never put any part of a wild plant in your mouth.
- Don't drink unpurified water.
- Wear long pants, long sleeves, socks and closed-toe shoes



- Don't wander off alone.
- Wash your hands after being in the field.

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