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# Fire Safety 101



Students **and** teachers routinely suffer burns and other injuries in school science lab experiments—here's how you and your students can stay safe.

- **Evaluate** the hazards for each experiment including the appropriate personal protective equipment required, safe work practices, emergency procedures and waste disposal.
- **Provide** a safety briefing at the beginning of every lab experiment. Make sure students understand all hazards before conducting an experiment themselves.
- **Be trained** and knowledgeable in fire safety procedures and emergency plans specific for the location and experiment. Provide this information to students as part of the safety briefing.
- **Distribute** personal protective equipment — lab coats, disposable gloves, and eye goggles. Be sure students are wearing shoes that cover the whole foot, loose clothing is secured, jewelry is removed or secured, and that hair is pulled back.
- **Make sure** all designated exits are clear, especially when performing a demonstration or experiment.
- **Perform** experiments involving open flames, fire, or the use of flammable, reactive, toxic or corrosive chemicals in a fume hood. Place a safety barrier between students and the demonstration or experiment to prevent personal injury.
- **Never allow** students to work in the lab without teacher supervision.
- **Limit** the amount of chemicals stored or used in a lab classroom to the amount needed for one day's use, pre-apportioned to the amount needed for each class session. Keep all other bulk quantities in a locked room outside of the classroom.
- **Do not dispense** bulk quantities of chemicals inside the classroom.



For additional information regarding laboratory fire safety and **NFPA 45 Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals**, visit [nfpa.org/labs](http://nfpa.org/labs).

