Lab classes teach new skills and techniques, building on previous experience. There are some items you are **EXPECTED TO KNOW BEFORE LAB**. Basic **RULES & TECHNIQUES** guide us. See the **LABORATORY RULES**, our **STUDY GUIDE** and the text book **LABORATORY SAFETY FOR CHEMISTRY STUDENTS** for details.

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**LAB & LIFE SAFETY SKILLS YOU NEED TO KNOW | LAB RULES & TECHNIQUES**

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**Stay together. Take care of people first.**

| In any situation, personal safety is our first priority. Don’t work alone. Watch out for those around you. In any emergency, report to building evacuation area. Each building has one. See posted building signs. |

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**Share your stuff.**

| Respect that all must use lab supplies. Avoid contamination. Never return chemicals to supply bottle; see if someone else can use your excess. Pour out of bottles – don’t put tools into supply bottles. |

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**Be prepared.**

| Arrive prepared. Students who arrive unprepared – or inappropriately dressed – will not be allowed to work in lab. |

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**Read and heed instructions and signs.**

| Remain aware of your surroundings. Instructions posted in lab are for your protection, so read & follow them. |

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**Eyes don’t grow back.**

| Goggles are required to prevent splashed materials from entering & damaging eyes. Contact lens wear is acceptable with goggles. Don’t touch face or goggles with gloves. Wash any eye contamination 15 minutes in running water. |

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**Skin is harder to replace than clothing.**

| Wear long pants and closed shoes with a lab coat to protect skin and slow contamination of clothing. Add single-use gloves where there is a chance of hazardous splash on hands. Remove any contaminated clothing & wash any contaminated skin 15 minutes in running water. |

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**Hot stuff burns fingers. Really hot stuff burns faster.**

| Really cold stuff burns, too. |

| Hold a hand near or over an object to detect radiant heat. Use tongs and other tools provided in lab to protect hands. |

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**If you heat something, it may become too hot to touch.**

| Turning off a heat source doesn’t mean the appliance (or glassware) is cool. Plan time and space to allow heated objects to cool (glassware/burners/ hot plates/pots/irons/curling irons). |

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**Broken glass is sharp. Sharp stuff cuts.**

| Use tools (not hands) to collect pieces of broken glass. Place all pieces in broken glass boxes provided. |
LAB AND LIFE SAFETY EXPECTATIONS
KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED BEFORE LAB WORK

If there’s a fire, move away. For a clothing fire: **STOP | DROP | ROLL**

- For clothing fire, **STOP** (prevent running), **DROP** (push the victim to the ground) and **ROLL** (roll on the floor).
- For building fire, don’t try to fight it: evacuate everyone to REVELLE PLAZA.
- Pull the fire alarm (in the hall).
- Wait for Emergency Responders to allow re-entry.

**Water and electricity do not play well together.**

- Keep **electric appliances** away from wet areas.
- Keep water away from electric appliances.

**Glass breaks. Liquids spill. Gravity works.**

- Keep containers closed when not in active use.
- Keep glassware away from edge of counter.

**Put things away when you’re done.**

- Return all materials to correct storage locations.

**You spill it; you clean it.**

- **CONTAIN | ABSORB | COLLECT**
  - Spill cleanup materials are provided in all labs.
  - TA instructs while student cleans spill & checks the area for residual hazards.
  - Dispose of wastes/glove/lab trash according to instructions. Sink drain is for soapy water.

A dictionary contains many chemical terms that may be new.

- Check any words that are unclear or seem to be used in a new way.
- Many common words have **specific chemical meanings** (*strong vs. concentrated*).

**Work in lab; eat elsewhere.**

- Don’t put any **lab materials** in/near mouth.
- Don’t touch **glove** to face/goggles.
- Store food/drink/makeup/smoking materials in **closed containers**.
- Dispose of **food trash** before entering lab.

**Label everything. It’s hard to manage what isn’t known.**

- **Label all containers** before filling:
  - substance, concentration, hazard(s), owner, date.

**Asking for help is a sign of wisdom, not ignorance.**

- Designate an **emergency contact**.
- **Call for help** in any emergency or when circumstances overcome preparation.
  - On campus, call **858-534-4357** (858-53-4HELP).
  - Ask instructor, TA, staff for any assistance you need.
  - If you need special tools or furnishings for a documented disability, please let us help.

**Read all the labels. A lot of things look like water.**

- **Read the label twice**: before opening a bottle and again when closing.
- If you have the wrong substance, ask TA about disposal.

There are some things we know & some things we don’t know. Education tends to increase both lists. Bring it all to lab; you never know what will be useful.

- Don’t attempt to work with hazardous materials **beyond your competence**.
- Your competence will grow and your work will expand.