Lab Safety Rules and Procedures

Laboratory safety depends on YOU. Read, understand and practice the Laboratory Safety Rules listed below. Failure to do so can create unsafe situations in the lab.

Personal Protection:
1. Safety goggles must be worn at all times when using flames or hazardous chemicals. Contact lenses are strictly prohibited in the laboratory.
2. Laboratory coats or aprons must be worn at all times.
3. Never eat, drink or chew gum while working in the laboratory.
4. Read labels carefully.
5. Treat every chemical as if it were hazardous!!

Emergency Response:
1. Know the location of the fire extinguisher, eye wash, and safety shower in your lab and know how to use them.
2. Notify your instructor immediately after any injury, fire or explosion, or spill.
3. Know the building evacuation procedures.

Chemical Waste Disposal:
1. Never return chemicals to reagent bottles. (Try for the correct amount and share any excess.)
2. Dispose of waste in proper containers when instructed to do so.
3. Dispose of glassware in broken glassware boxes only! Never put broken glass in the trash cans.
4. Clean up spills immediately.

Additional Safety Procedures:
- Read lab procedures before starting the lab.
- If you have long hair, make sure it is tied back.
- Do not leave an ongoing experiment unattended.
- Keep your lab space clean and organized.
- Never taste anything. If instructed to smell a chemical, do so by carefully fanning the top of the bottle so that a little vapour is directed towards your nose.
- When diluting always add acid to water, "like you oughter".
- Always inform your instructor if you break a thermometer. Do not clean it up yourself!
- Leave all books in your desk and backpacks in your locker, where they cannot be contaminated by chemicals and are not able to trip anyone.
- Never do unauthorized experiments or reactions.
- Horseplay is never allowed in the laboratory.
- Clean your lab bench before you leave the laboratory.