

Discussion and Notes

Keep a copy of these safety training notes and a signed attendance sheet to verify regular safety training.

Regulatory inspectors will usually request proof of safety training. A copy of the sign-up sheet that we suggest using may be found at www.flinnsci.com/media/412875/signup.pdf.

Safety Training—It’s More Than a Checklist!

Training is an essential requirement of health and safety regulations for schools—whether it’s emergency action plans, fire safety, or chemical storage and disposal. With so many requirements to keep track of, it’s tempting to approach safety in your school science labs with a checklist:

- Safety contract
- Fire safety
- Chemical labels and SDS
- Etc.

While this is efficient, it may not be effective. Would you teach safety to your students by having them sign a safety contract, and then never mention it again? No! You review the rules often, every day, and incorporate safety precautions into each class or laboratory exercise. We encourage you to adopt a similar practice in your science department by beginning every department meeting with a short, 5- or 10-minute discussion of a relevant safety topic.

Start with Safety

The purpose of the *Flinn Scientific Safety Training Notes* is to provide a friendly forum for science teachers to review safety requirements and procedures, discuss their safety concerns, and set goals to improve safety.

At Flinn Scientific we begin group meetings with team members briefly sharing accomplishments. This is immediately followed by a “Safety Awareness” agenda item, which is a 4- to 5-point safety “slide” prepared by our Safety Committee. We talk about the information on the slide, and then open up the discussion to other safety questions or concerns. For example, we have talked about the flammables cabinet in our lab. It’s getting full—time for a clean-out! Other issues that have been raised include the proper procedure for returning a chemical to the lab inventory and the location of a newly-installed eyewash that needs to be marked with a placard.

The key to effective safety training is that it is regular and ongoing and that all members of the team contribute. A safety topic may take only five minutes to present, but the cumulative effect over the course of the school year will be far greater than the sum of the parts. Including safety in science department meetings will dramatically increase your safety awareness in everything you do!

In keeping with the purpose described above, we promise to keep each Safety Training Note informative and concise—we want you to use these notes, not just store them! Some of the topics we will address this year include the Laboratory Safety Challenge, Five Minute Safety Inspection, and Inquiry Safety and NGSS. Some of our training notes will be accompanied by a safety video from our free online video library and the [Flinn Scientific Laboratory Safety Certification Course](#).

Safety is an attitude! It is a culture that must be established and nurtured. The culture of lab safety is a shared responsibility that depends on all individuals in the school working together to protect themselves, each other, the students, and the community. Flinn Scientific is dedicated to helping you succeed by providing the very best science education supplies, safety information, instructional materials and programs to facilitate your vital work. It is an honor to be invited into your schools—thank you!

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Free Online Safety Training

Every science teacher in your school should be “Flinn Safety Certified!” Comprehensive, motivational safety training videos are now available online to all teachers, absolutely free, anywhere and anytime!

To view the first video in the series, visit the Flinn Website at

<http://labsafety.flinnsci.com/Chapter.aspx?ChapterId=88&UnitId=1>

In this video Larry Flinn describes the features of this great new program and how it will help you and your school be #1 in safety.

Flinn Scientific Values Your Support

Please continue to support our efforts to improve safety in school science labs by ordering all of your science supplies and laboratory chemicals from Flinn Scientific.

Next Month’s Topic

Laboratory Safety Challenge

