

Laboratory Safety Contract

Keep one copy for your records. Sign and submit the other to your instructor.

Purpose

PHYS 1090 offers “hands-on” laboratory experience. You will do many lab activities that require the use of chemicals and equipment that can potentially be hazardous. In this class, safety is the number one priority. To ensure a safe working environment for everyone, adhere to the following safety guidelines at all times.

I. General guidelines

- A. Follow all instructions carefully.
- B. Never work alone in the lab.
- C. No food, drinks, gum, or candy in the lab.
- D. Perform only authorized experiments.
- E. Be on your best behavior in lab—no horseplay, practical jokes, or pranks!
- F. Keep your work area clean and tidy at all times.
- G. Know the location of and how to use lab safety equipment.
- H. Always be alert to potential hazards and work cautiously in the lab. Notify the instructor immediately of any unsafe conditions you observe.
- I. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including the first aid kit and fire extinguisher. Know where the fire alarm and the exits are located.
- J. Dispose of chemicals according to the instructor’s directions. No solids in the sink! Put nothing in the sink without consulting your teacher.
- K. Read all labels carefully before using chemicals.
- L. Keep your hands away from face, mouth, eyes, and body during experiments and wash them before you leave the lab.
- M. Clean, rinse, and dry all equipment and return it to its proper place.

II. Clothing

- A. Proper eye protection must be worn during all laboratory experiments.
- B. Dress appropriately for lab—wear closed-toe shoes, tie hair back, remove rings and watches, and do not wear loose clothing.

III. Accidents and injuries

- A. If you or your lab partner is hurt, immediately (and loudly) yell out the instructor's name to get the instructor’s attention. Do not panic.
- B. Report ALL accidents to your instructor immediately—even the small ones!
- C. Chemicals in the eye should be flushed with tepid water from the eyewash for 15–20 minutes.
- D. Chemicals on the skin should be washed with soap and water.

IV. Handling chemicals

- A. Consider all chemicals dangerous—do not touch, taste, or smell without specific instructions. Use the wafting technique when testing for odor.
- B. Check labels twice before using a chemical. Take only the amount you need.
- C. Never return unused chemicals to their original container.
- D. When using concentrated acids and bases, practice extreme caution. Add acid to water when diluting concentrated acids.
- E. Do not use flammable materials near open flames.
- F. Be very careful when carrying chemicals around the room.

V. Handling glassware and equipment

- A. Use the correct equipment for the task.
- B. Check glassware before use and report any chips or cracks.
- C. Never handle broken glass with bare hands. Notify the instructor if something breaks.
- D. Broken glass is only disposed of in the broken glass container: never directly in the regular trash.
- E. Be careful using electrical equipment. Make sure plugs and cords are in good condition and that your hands are dry.
- F. Use safety equipment when handling heated equipment and do not place hot glass directly on the lab table or under cold water.

VI. Heating substances

- A. Never leave a flame unattended.
- B. Direct substances being heated away from yourself and everyone else.
- C. Use insulating materials or tongs when handling heated equipment.
- D. Do not place hot equipment on the lab table. Use an insulating pad or wire gauze.
- E. Do not place hot equipment on a balance. Let it cool first!

Contract

I have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to insure my own safety, and for the safety of my fellow students and instructors. I will cooperate with my instructor and fellow students to maintain a safe lab environment. I will also closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by the instructor. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conduct in the laboratory may result in removal from the laboratory, receiving a failing grade, or dismissal from future labs.

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____