

Module 1: Fundamentals of Biology


Topic 4 Content: Accidents in the Lab Notes

Introduction

Accidents in the Lab

Accidents in the Lab

Unfortunately, accidents happen in the lab. While the accident shown in this image may look comical, an accident in the lab is no joke. In this interactivity, read each question and then click on the question to learn how to deal with the issue. In every situation, stay calm, and notify your instructor or another adult immediately.



What if I catch on fire?

What if the lab table catches on fire?

What if I get a chemical in my eyes?

What if I get a chemical on my body or face?

What if I drop and break glassware in the lab?

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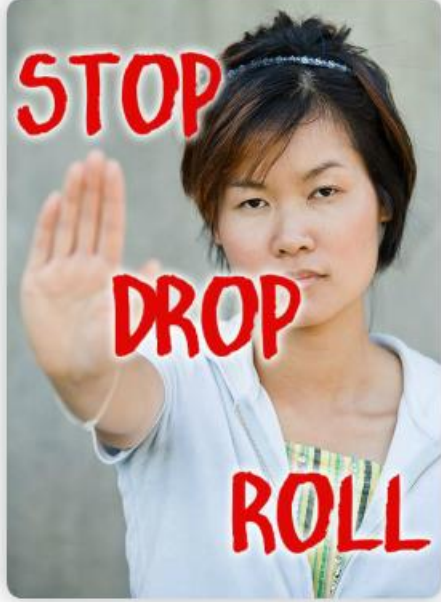
What if I catch on fire?

Accidents in the Lab

What if I catch on fire?

Stop, drop, and roll! If there is not enough space, locate the fire blanket in your lab. Wrap the blanket tightly around yourself, which will smother the flames

- Stop! - Movement will only make the flames worse and make it hard for others to help.
- Drop! - Lie flat on the ground and use your hands to protect your face.
- Roll! - Roll quickly or rock back and forth on the ground, which will cut the supply of oxygen and put out the flames.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white lab coat over a green and white striped shirt. She is holding her right hand up in a 'stop' gesture. Overlaid on the image in large, bold, red, sans-serif capital letters are the words 'STOP', 'DROP', and 'ROLL' stacked vertically. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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What if the lab table catches on fire?

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What if the lab table catches on fire?

Do not put water on it. Water may douse some flames, but spread others. Use either a fire extinguisher or a fire blanket to smother the flames. The fire extinguisher directions are always labeled on the side and are very easy to follow.



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What if I get a chemical in my eyes?

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What if the lab table catches on fire?

What if I get a chemical in my eyes?

Go immediately to the eye wash station and wash your eyes out with water. Push the lever on the eye wash to begin the flow of water. The pressure will remove the dust covers and begin to flush your eyes. Roll your eyes to the left and to the right and continue to wash your eyes for at least fifteen minutes. If your hands are free from chemical residue, use them to hold your eyelids apart. Once you have flushed your eyes, seek medical attention immediately.



What if I get a chemical on my body or face?

What if I drop and break glassware in the lab?

What if I inhale or ingest a harmful chemical?

Go immediately to the eye wash station and wash your eyes out with water. Push the lever on the eye wash to begin the flow of water. The pressure will remove the dust covers and begin to flush your eyes. Roll your eyes to the left and to the right and continue to wash your eyes for at least fifteen minutes. If your hands are free from chemical residue, use them to hold your eyelids apart. Once you have flushed your eyes, seek medical attention immediately.

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What if I get a chemical on my body or face?

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What if I get a chemical in my eyes?

What if I get a chemical on my body or face?

Go immediately to the safety shower. Pull down on the lever and douse yourself with water. The water will dilute and flush away some of the chemical. Do not take any of your clothes off before you use the safety shower. Pulling them over your head may cause you to get the chemical on your face or other parts of your body.



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What if I drop and break glassware in the lab?

Accidents in the Lab

What if I get a chemical in my eyes?

What if I get a chemical on my body or face?

What if I drop and break glassware in the lab?

Carefully sweep up all broken glass pieces and place them in the special container labeled *Broken Glass*. This container is specially designed to minimize exposure to the sharp edges and shards found with broken glass. Do not put the broken pieces in the trash, as doing so may expose someone else to dangerous chemicals or possible cuts.



What if I inhale or ingest a harmful chemical?

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What if I inhale or ingest a harmful chemical?

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- What if I get a chemical in my eyes?
- What if I get a chemical on my body or face?
- What if I drop and break glassware in the lab?
- What if I inhale or ingest a harmful chemical?

Immediately notify your instructor, who will guide you through what to do. If an adult is not available, contact emergency services and/or your local poison control.



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Topic 4 Content: Accidents in the Lab Notes

What if I spill a harmful substance on the lab table?

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- What if I get a chemical in my eyes?
- What if I get a chemical on my body or face?
- What if I drop and break glassware in the lab?
- What if I inhale or ingest a harmful chemical?
- What if I spill a harmful substance on the lab table?

Notify immediately everyone around the table and your instructor. Sprinkle a neutralizer on the table (typically baking soda), which will neutralize the acid so it can be cleaned up with soap and water. Inform your instructor, classmates, and a custodian, who will dispose of the clean-up materials in the trash.



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