

Each of the following paragraphs describes a real accident that occurred. After reading each paragraph, decide what was done correctly (if anything), what was done wrong, and if any of the safety rules were broken. If rules were broken, list the number of at least one.

1. A ninth-grade physical science class met in a large (but ill-equipped) room. Because there were no gas jets in the room, the students performed experiments with alcohol burners. A teacher allowed one student to perform his experiment at a desk with a slanted top. His ignited alcohol burner slid off and dropped into his gym bag, which then ignited. Fortunately, the teacher was nearby and close to a fire blanket, which he used to smother the flames. The bag and its contents were burned.

What was done correctly? _____

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____

2. During a freshman lab period in college, my lab partner was looking for a certain solution which was supplied to be used in the experiment. Unfortunately, students had taken the beakers of unmarked solutions back to their desks, away from the marked spots. In any case, my partner was unsure which solution was which, so she decided to smell them to see which was the ammonia we were supposed to use. She put the beaker under her nose and breathed deeply. Seconds later, she almost passed out on the floor.

What was done correctly? _____

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____

3. A friend of mine was doing research in a chemistry lab. He and a lab partner stopped for lunch in the lab. My friend reached for and drank what he thought was a beaker of water. It actually was hydrochloric acid. He destroyed his upper palate and esophagus.

What was done correctly? _____

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____

4. My lab partner brought 250-300 mL of strong acid in a 600 mL beaker and set it down on the bench against which I was leaning. The bottom of the beaker was knocked out, and the acid ran down the front of my cotton trousers. By the time all was rinsed away, there was no front on my trousers.

What was done correctly? _____

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____

5. A student's hair caught on fire in a chemistry lab when he leaned over the Bunsen burner. Instructions had been given to secure long hair with rubber bands. The girls in the class complied with the instruction. Boys with long hair did not all comply. The male teacher elected not to insist on strict compliance, feeling that the boys would be careful.

What was done correctly? _____

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____

6. A low-level college prep student picked up a small bottle of concentrated nitric acid and spilled a small amount on his leg. He was embarrassed to mention it to anyone and sat through 20 minutes of class before smoke, dissolving pants, and burning flesh forced him to report the incident. The teacher immediately washed the area with a large amount of water.

What was done correctly? _____

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____

7. A Portland, Maine, housewife went to clean the outside of her house. While outside, she mixed a solution of household ammonia and Clorox bleach. She was killed from the toxic fumes. Someone saw her pass out and called an ambulance. One ambulance attendant was overcome by the fumes and later died.

What was done wrong? _____

Was a safety rule broken? Yes No (circle one) If you said yes, which one? # _____