

1. What are the key elements of the NSTA Safety and School Science Instruction Position?

Teachers should be educated on all aspects of safety issues in the Physics Lab. Teachers shouldn't allow unreasonable risk of harm to the students in their care. This means the teacher should not fall below the standard care of facilities and equipment. Teachers should instruct and supervise the students at all times. They should never allow distractions occur from outside the school setting.

2. What is meant by "Duty of Instruction" ?

The teacher must give the students easily understandable and excellent safety instructions in the lab to prevent accidents in the lab. These instructions must be in-line with district and state guide-lines. Davis district uses the Flinn safety contract, which is geared towards Chemistry. I've modified it to include Physics issues.

3. What is meant by "Duty of Supervision"?

Labs must always be properly supervised. Misbehavior or horseplay in the lab should not be tolerated. A teacher should never be distracted by outside influences during lab time.

4. What is meant by "Duty of Maintenance"?

Maintaining the lab area in order to prevent accidents. For example, chemicals should be properly labeled. First-aid equipment should be maintained and available. Equipment should be updated and maintained.

5. Why do you think Safety is an important concern for a Science classroom and its teacher?

If basic safety rules are followed, accidents and damages can be minimized. However, it prevents negligence on the educators part.