

# LAB SAFETY SITUATION

**Read and evaluate the following description of a lab situation. Decide which violate safety procedures and which demonstrate good/safe practices. Generate two lists and sort the actions as “safe” or “unsafe”. Lastly, propose a hypothesis (an “if...then” statement) concerning one of the “unsafe” actions and predict some possible consequences that could result from students not following safety procedures.**

Students are entering a science classroom on lab activity day. Most get out their daily supplies and sit quietly, waiting for instructions. Two students enter the room practicing the latest wrestling moves they saw on television. The teacher describes the lab activity, which involves using matches to light Bunsen burners. She explains that the burners will be used to determine the melting points of different chemicals. After receiving instructions, the students begin the activity.

Sally puts her hair in a ponytail, rolls up her long sleeves and puts on her safety goggles. Eric, in a rush to get started, leaves his goggles on the table and quickly lights a match without closing the matchbook cover. Eric then throws the smoky, smoldering match into the wastebasket.

Simone, wondering what chemical #2 is, dips her pinky finger into it and takes a little taste. She can't figure out what the substance is so she brings the container close to her nose for a little sniff. Her friend, Sheena, carefully measures out a sample of chemical #2 using the spoon that is in container number two. Running out of patience, Sam uses the spoon from the container for chemical #3 to measure out a sample of chemical #4 before checking its melting point. Eddy takes too much of chemical #6 so he just puts the extra back into the container.

On the other side of the room, Dustin raises his goggles to his forehead during a conversation with Crystal about the upcoming events for the weekend. Susan asks her teacher for permission to leave her lab station to use the restroom.

Jennifer is thirsty and takes a sip of a clear liquid from a container that is on the counter top. Alex is starting to get a little dizzy from all the smoke in the room and does not tell his teacher. He continues to get more light-headed.

While checking for melting points, Bobby carefully uses his hand to wave the odor coming from a chemical toward his nose. His partner, Ryan, begins to eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich that he has taken from his backpack. During the lab, Ryan then decides to leave the classroom to get a drink of water after eating the peanut butter sandwich.

The wastebasket that Eric threw his match into begins to smoke. Zachary notices the smoke and immediately tells his teacher. Towards the end of the hour, Mary begins to clean up her lab station she uses hot pads to take the beaker away from the flame. Megan grabs for the beaker with her bare hands. She is startled by how hot the beaker is and knocks the beaker to the floor.

Megan gets a small cut on her finger from cleaning up the broken glass beaker. It only bleeds a little bit so she wipes her finger with a paper towel she found on the lab table and leaves the room for her next class.

While exiting the class, Judy decides that she still needs to read the pre-lab activity just in case the teacher asks her questions about the lab tomorrow. Cindy decides that reading the pre-lab activity is a waste of her time so she throws it away. Kelly, in a hurry, leaves her messy station and heads for her next class.

Safe /Good Practices	Unsafe / Bad Practices

**Hypothesis of an unsafe practice:**

If \_\_\_\_\_ ,

then\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.