

First-aid in the laboratory

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Working in groups – and keeping your fingers crossed – discuss what the most frequent laboratory accidents are and what should be done if they occur. Here are some possible situations; add any more which you or your classmates have experienced or which you can think of.

- You burn your skin touching hot glassware.
- You splash a chemical in your eye.
- You severely cut yourself with broken glass.
- You accidentally inhale or swallow a poisonous chemical.
- Somebody near you faints.
- Somebody near you catches fire.
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Here are some suggestions for some emergency first aid which might help your discussion.

- Apply pressure directly on the wound.
- Ask the teacher for an antidote.
- Call the poison control centre.
- Get medical assistance.
- Provide the person with fresh air.
- Recline the person so that the head is lower than the body.
- Rinse with plenty of cold water.
- Swab with a disinfectant.
- Use a fire extinguisher to put out the fire.
- Wrap the person in a fire blanket.

