

Safety in the Science Classroom – 2012 May 05

YouTube and other public posting of science demonstration videos

What is your obligation?

An important obligation of science teachers is to provide appropriate modeling of science safety in all circumstances, and media posted for public viewing is no exception. A recent review of YouTube science videos revealed over 1.5 million viewings of a dry ice demonstration. With that many people viewing, copying and replaying science demonstrations from sites such as YouTube, TeacherTube, videojug and many others, adherence to science safety is paramount. A paramount obligation of teachers is to realize that publically posted videos become an extension of their teaching environment and all science safety precautions must be addressed and modeled (See NSTA Position Statement: Principles of Professionalism for Science Educators).

Safety Procedure Reminders:

When **creating** videos for public viewing by science teachers, keep the following in mind:

- Adherence to your school's written safety standards, hazardous material management and disposal procedures for chemical and biological wastes (From NSTA Position Statement: Safety and School Science Instruction)
- Eye Protection (See the Safety in the Science Classroom brief: Eye Protection for Your Laboratory)
- Safe handling of chemicals (See the Safety in the Science Classroom brief: Safe Handling of Alcohol in the Laboratory)
- Biohazard control as appropriate
- Clothing protection, including proper lab apron appeal, head covering as appropriate
- Safe handling and use of fire as appropriate
- Spoken and written safety concerns associated with the demonstration should be included in the video as appropriate

When **choosing** online media for classroom viewing, keep the following in mind:

- Select media that models appropriate safety practices, including
- Adherence to your school's written safety standards, hazardous material management and disposal procedures for chemical and biological wastes (From NSTA Position Statement: Safety and School Science Instruction)
- Eye Protection (See the Safety in the Science Classroom brief: Eye Protection for Your Laboratory)
- Safe handling of chemicals (See the Safety in the Science Classroom brief: Safe Handling of Alcohol in the Laboratory)

- Biohazard control as appropriate
- Clothing protection, including proper lab aprons, head covering as appropriate
- Safe handling and use of fire as appropriate
- Spoken and written safety concerns associated with the demonstration should be included in the video as appropriate

Media that contains unsafe practices should receive limited or no use and “teachable moments” should be utilized to underscore the unsafe practices, pointing out the unsafe practices and engaging students in a safety discussion.