1. Teachers are responsible for preventing accidents and ensuring that the science classroom is as safe as possible. Whenever an accident happens, notify the school office immediately by telephoning or sending a pair of runners to the office.

2. Rules for investigatory work should be taught to the students, posted in a conspicuous place, and reviewed continually. Instruct and rehearse the students in the procedures for classroom behavior and the consequences for misbehavior.

3. When taking students on a field trip, solicit adult help, even when the trip is only a short distance from the school. A recommended guideline is one adult for every ten students.

4. Maintain a neat classroom, with aisles kept clear and books and coats in designated storage areas. Students should not be allowed to wear coats while doing laboratory investigations. Loose fitting clothing can too easily knock over equipment.

5. Be aware of eye safety precautions and regulations regarding eye protection.

6. Avoid using flammable materials and alcohol burners, and use lighted candles and hot plates with caution.

7. Keep a well-supplied first aid kit available in the classroom.

8. Know exactly what to do in case of emergencies, and have emergency procedures posted conspicuously in your classroom.

9. Have an ABC-type fire extinguisher available always, and be sure it is adequately charged.

10. Use proper waste disposal methods. Learn from your school district the regulations for disposing of various kinds of waste materials.

11. Maintain accurate labels on all drawers, cupboards, and containers.

12. Never allow students to taste unknown substances.

13. Avoid using dangerous plants, animals, chemicals, and apparatus in the classroom.
14. Handle pets with care and caution. For example, birds can carry psittacosis, and turtles and other animals can carry salmonellosis. Dogs, rabbits, and other animals may have parasites. Some children may be allergic to animal dander.

15. Do not allow students to handle or to bring dead animals into the classroom.

16. Do not store heavy items above the heads of the students.

17. Do not allow students to climb or to be in positions where they may fall.

18. Do not leave dangerously sharp objects or those that may shatter where students can obtain them without approval and supervision.

19. Avoid allowing students to overheat or to over exert themselves.

20. Never leave students unattended for any reason.

21. Inspect electrical equipment for frayed cords and, if frayed, do not use.

22. Avoid overloading an electrical circuit.

23. Employ caution in the use of any mechanical equipment with moving parts.

24. Under no circumstances allow blood or any other body fluids to be extracted from your students.

25. Be alert for students who have allergies or other medical problems, and be aware of what to do if a student is having a medical problem while in your classroom. Remember, however, unless you are a licensed medical professional, you must never give medication to students, whether prescription or over-the-counter.

26. Be aware of what you do in an emergency situation. Accidents to students at school do occur. While doing a laboratory experiment, a student may be cut by glass or burned by a hot item. A student may fall and be hurt during an excursion outside the classroom. Do you know what to do if a student is injured while under your supervision?
   First, you should give first aid only when necessary to save a child’s limb or life. When life or limb is not threatened, you should follow school policy in referring the student to immediate
professional care. When immediate care is not available but you believe it is necessary, you may take prudent action as if you were the child’s parent or legal guardian. However, you must be cautious and knowledgeable about what you are doing so that you do not cause further injury.