




Ken Slentz, Deputy Commissioner
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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools
Superintendents of State-Operated and State Supported Schools
Superintendents of Special Act School Districts

FROM: Ken Slentz 

SUBJECT: Safety Practices and Protocols in Schools

In light of a recent classroom accident involving a chemistry demonstration, I urge all school personnel to be mindful of the inherent risks associated with the laboratory demonstrations and experiments used to engage students. If a safer alternative can be used with the same educational benefit, please use the safer alternative.

It is important to regularly conduct thorough reviews of district safety practices and protocols. As you reflect on your district's practices and protocols, you may wish to review relevant safety information provided by the following national organizations and agencies:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) School Chemistry Laboratory Safety Guide <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/NIOSH2007107.pdf>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/index.html>
- U.S. Chemical Safety Board <http://www.csb.gov/>
- The Laboratory Safety Institute <http://labsafetyinstitute.org/Resources.html>
- National Science Teachers Association <http://www.nsta.org/safety/>

Please share this information with appropriate personnel. Thank you for reviewing, understanding, and implementing policies and procedures for ensuring the safety of all students and school personnel.