

TABLE 3

Safety precautions.

“Doing science through hands-on, process, and inquiry-based activities or experiments helps to foster the learning and understanding of science. However, in order to make for a safer experience, certain safety procedures must be followed” (NSTA, 2014, xviii).

Fire Extinguisher	Make arrangements to have a fire extinguisher available whenever the slightest possibility of fire exists. Safety codes require training for use of portable fire extinguishers. Certificate of extinguisher training should be provided as part of the safety compliance approval.
Supervised Investigations	Students are never allowed to conduct any unauthorized investigation or to work alone or unsupervised.
Practice Procedures	Practice all procedures prior to presenting them to an audience or having participants try them. As a safety precaution for <i>any</i> of the learning tasks described in this article, be sure to have students sketch and show you their plans for approval <i>before</i> they test them out with electrical materials.
Eye Protection	Safety goggles are needed for all phases of a hands-on activity (i.e., gathering, working with, and cleaning up needed materials). Eye protection is to be sanitized in hot water and antibacterial dish detergent or using alcohol swabs.
Accidents/Injuries	All accidents and injuries must be reported immediately to the instructor, no matter how trivial they may seem at the time.
Attire	Dress appropriately for laboratory work by protecting your body with clothing and shoes. Tie back long hair and tuck into the collar. Do not wear loose or baggy clothing or dangling jewelry. Sandals or open-toe shoes are not to be worn.
Allergies	Teachers should check to see if any students have contact allergies associated with the science investigation. *Check for latex allergies before using balloons.

NOTE: Additional information on safety can be found at the NSTA Safety Portal at <http://www.nsta.org/portals/safety.aspx> and the “Safety in the Science Classroom” at www.nsta.org/pdfs/SafetyInTheScienceClassroom.pdf.