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Safety Bugs



Concept: Safety awareness in the classroom and lab

National Science Standards:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G

Objective: Participants will learn that safety awareness in science classes can lead to less fear, more fun, and a safer learning environment.

Suggested grade levels: All (especially recommended as an in-service activity)

Estimated time:

- Teacher prep: 10-15 minutes
 - Activity: 5 minute teacher introduction
20-30 minutes of working time
5 minute (maximum) per small group for presentation

Materials needed:

- (optional) Tagboard job cards labeled Recorder, Leader, and Presenter
 - (optional) additional supplies for small group presentations (construction paper, markers, etc.)

Safety/Disposal: None

Procedure:

1. Present the problem to the whole group:

The Safety Bugs problem to be solved is to devise a way to warn tourists of 4 major hazardous pests of Wisconsin: the mosquito, the deer fly, the tick, and the bumblebee.

Ask: What are the hazards? Who should be informed of these hazards? How should they be informed? What should the level of information be? Note: tourism is a major industry in Wisconsin.

2. Break into equal groups and assign roles of *Recorder* (take notes), *Leader* (keep group on

- task/focus) and *Presenter* (tell findings to whole group).
3. Allow 20 - 30 minutes of work time.
 4. Small groups give their presentations of 5 minutes (max.).
 5. The teacher provides closure by summarizing the key points from each presentation and threading them together. The teacher may then explain any safety rules and materials required or available.

Wrap-up:

- Expected result: Participants will become more conscious of and comfortable with safety issues in classrooms/labs.
- Participants will be introduced to safety resources.

Extensions:

- Teacher could ask, “Where else do safety issues need to be addressed?” Possible answers: at home, on the job, etc.
- Involve community resources in the presentation.
- This activity is a good springboard for a discussion of specific safety concerns for your classroom.

Resources/Bibliography

This activity is based upon a presentation given at the MATR Institute by Dr. Steve Wright, University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point chemistry professor and MATR safety coordinator.

MSDS form (Materials Safety Data Sheet)

NFPA HFR labels (from the National Fire Protection Agency--Health, Fire, Reactivity labels)

Hugh B. Kareful Presents “Working Safely With Chemicals In The Laboratory” Genum Publishing Corp., 1995