



Health & Safety Reminders – BASEF

The Bay Area Science & Engineering Fair Safety Rules are very strict in order to achieve the high standards of safety that, not only, we at BASEF require for a project to be displayed but also because we want a safe environment for students, parents, teachers, judges, volunteers and visitors who come to our Fair. This is a reminder of some of the more important rules which some participants forget to follow each year.

1. Projects must be set up on Wednesday night during the setup hours and at least one student must be present.
2. Projects CANNOT be set up on Thursday!
3. Be sure you bring the same project you registered, with the same Title. You may NOT bring another project!
4. Remember to bring all your materials to be displayed, including your project abstract and your workbook and/or journal, so the Judges can review them on Thursday morning.

5. GENERAL ITEMS:

- When preparing your lunch or snacks consider persons with allergies.
- We strongly recommend that you use unbreakable, sealed containers for any materials we allow you to display at your project. Glass jars are not a good choice, no matter how much duct tape is used to fasten them to the tabletop, they still might fall. Replace glass jars with plastic jars where possible.
- All wood, cardboard and plastic packing boxes must be removed from the Fair and taken home, for fire safety reasons. Packing materials CANNOT be stored under the table.
- Any computers, other electronics, tools or other items that a student leaves in the display area are left at their own risk. For such items of monetary value, we suggest the use of a security cable.
- If an item of monetary value cannot remain overnight and the student cannot bring it with them at lunchtime, please discuss with the BASEF Safety Coordinator during the Wednesday night setup hours.
- An apparatus that has a health warning may NOT be displayed. Consider a photograph as a substitute.
- Hand Sanitizer should be simulated.
- Hockey Sticks and similar items should be glued/taped to the table and not be removed from the display area. Consider photographs as a substitute.

6. Displayed materials must comply with all safety, animal care and ethical regulations.

Unsafe items must be replaced by a photograph!

The display is a visual display and need not be a working experiment!

(A BASEF Safety Inspector will determine if something is allowed to be displayed.)

The following may **NOT** be presented as part of your project display:

- No plants nor plant tissue in any form, dead or alive. No organic soil nor plant materials.
- No biological toxins, bacteria, viruses nor moulds.
- No animals (vertebrate or invertebrate.) No photos of animals in distress nor being harmed.
- No skeletal parts with growing bacteria.
- No microorganisms (the use of mixed cultures obtained from the environment – e.g. soils, mouth swabs – is acceptable for experimentation but not for display.)
- No cultures are allowed for exhibition (photographs or simulated cultures may be used.)
- Anything grown from animal or human source is not to be displayed.

7. LASERS

- Only CERTIFIED ANSI 'Class 1' unmodified laser or laser diodes can be operated.
- Lasers or laser diodes may only be operated if they are pre-manufactured devices in completely enclosed apparatus such that the beam cannot be aimed at any observers under any conditions.
- Focused laser diodes may not be operated at the fair.



8. ROCKETS AND PRESSURE SYSTEMS

- Pressurized canisters or compressed gas cylinders are not allowed.
- Firearms and explosive material must not be displayed (no rocket engines).
- All air and hydraulic systems that employ pressure pumps and or holding tanks must be non-operational, depressurized, open to the atmosphere and free of compressed gas or fluids.
- Powered aircraft may not be activated.

9. EROSION EXPERIMENTS

- You may display unmodified dirt or gravel with nothing added to it. If you bring anything else we may ask you to take it home again with you and use a photograph instead.
- We do not want you to make mud, so we may not allow water at your project.

10. CONCRETE BLOCKS

- It has to be stable (won't fall over), not too heavy, and without loose debris.
- No crushing of materials is allowed. Such apparatus must be disabled to be displayed.

11. WATER

- Electrical and liquid items must not be placed close to each other.
- Projects that use water must be handled in a safe manner, without any spillage allowed during filling, transporting, or emptying the container.
- We are unlikely to allow anything other than water to be present in liquid form as part of your display.

12. PRODUCT COMPARISONS

- Chemicals that are in nature hazardous, flammable, explosive or highly toxic; carcinogens; mutagens and all pesticides may not be displayed. They are to be simulated or photographed.
- Dangerous, toxic, corrosive, etc. chemicals are not allowed, including prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication as well as many kitchen and laundry supplies. Empty and properly cleaned containers are allowed for display. (Safety Inspectors will decide if the empty container is safe to display)
- Chemicals that come with hazard warning labels or have a MSDS sheet indicating significant hazard are not to be brought to the Fair.
- Liquid samples are to be simulated using colored water or other non-designated substances.
- If you see the words danger or caution or warning for the usage of a material, we will likely NOT allow the material to be displayed.
- No project will be penalized because the key components were not on display.

13. WINDMILLS, ROBOTS, ROBOTIC ARMS, etc.

- Be sure you comply with all the mechanical, electrical, water and size limits!
- Consider a photograph as a substitute.

14. CLOUD CHAMBER

- If your project uses Dry ice and/or isopropanol, we consider these hazardous so do not bring them to the fair. Consider a photograph as a substitute.
- For medical reasons, strong magnets are not allowed for display. A simulated one can be used.

15. ELECTRICAL POWER

- Sometimes electrical power in the gyms we are using is limited.
- Therefore we may be asking students to NOT use display lighting on projects to ensure equipment needed for project demonstrations isn't affected by tripped circuit breakers.
- We will assess this in detail at project setup and let you know what is allowed.

We feel it is very important to provide a very safe environment for the thousands of participants and visitors who will come to our fair. We thank you for your assistance and cooperation in helping us achieve this and we wish you success at this year's Sc.