

Here is an update on the fire incident at the NYC school involving methanol use during the "rainbow experiment". Hopefully, other teachers have learned this lesson.

1. Use the safer alternatives
2. Never have a full container of chemical/flammable liquid on the demo bench
3. Everyone must have PPE on
4. Use a shield to protect the students if no fume hood is available

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Jyllian Kemsley posted: "Three lawsuits have now been filed by families of students injured a year ago when a New York high school teacher poured methanol from a gallon container during a "rainbow" flame test demonstration. New York Post stories about the lawsuits give some detail"

New post on **The Safety Zone**



[Lawsuits detail injuries from rainbow demonstration fire in New York school](#)

by [Jyllian Kemsley](#)

A wooden stick soaked in a lithium chloride solution glows fuschia when burned. Credit: Jillian

Meri Emerson/UC Davis

Three lawsuits have now been filed by families of students injured a year ago when a New York high school teacher [poured methanol from a gallon container during a "rainbow" flame test demonstration](#). *New York Post* [stories](#) about [the lawsuits](#) give some details of the students' injuries:

Alonzo Yanes suffered second- and third-degree burns on his body, head, face, neck, torso, and hands. "He's horrifically scarred, wearing all sorts of protective clothing and a brace on his neck," the family's attorney, Jeffrey Bloom, told the *Post*. His parents are suing the city for \$27 million.

Julia Saltonstall suffered first- and second-degree burns to her arm, torso, and face. Her family is suing for \$10 million.

Sara Salitan has respiratory problems and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and crying fits. Court papers in this suit did not list a specific amount.

h/t [Chemjobber](#). For a safer flame test demonstration, [use wooden applicators soaked in salt solutions](#).

Jyllian Kemsley | January 6, 2015 at 8:30 am | Tags: [#alcoholfire](#), [#alcoholfire](#) [#rainbowdemo](#), [#RainbowDemo](#) | Categories: [Accidents](#), [K-12 schools](#) | URL: <http://wp.me/pRCdG-dS3>