

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA <http://www.nfpa.org/>) has been around for over 100 years. They are the organization responsible for developing standards for fire protection and fire education (Sparky the Fire Dog and "Stop, Drop & Roll"). There is an NFPA standard for Laboratory Safety. The latest version includes requirements for school demonstrations.

Here is a good article for the NFPA about "Unsafe Science" (<http://www.nfpa.org/newsandpublications/nfpa-journal/2015/september-october-2015/features/unsafe-science>)

written last month before the latest methanol incident and an explanation of these requirements. There are some good resources and an NFPA Lab Fire Safety Tip sheet.

The NFPA 45 school lab requirements remind teachers to evaluate the hazards, provide a safety briefing to the students, be trained in emergency procedures, distribute PPE, limit the amount of chemicals stored or used in the classroom, don't dispense bulk quantities of chemicals in the classroom, and to perform experiments involving open flames, fire or the use of flammable, reactive, toxic or corrosive chemicals in a fume hood.

Please read the article and share with all other teachers!

And if you're not sure what hazards the chemicals you are using may have, and some of the materials you use are "household" materials - check out TOXNET and associated databases. I check there for materials I need more information on. <http://infocus.nlm.nih.gov/2015/11/04/toxnet-the-nlm-toxicology-databases/>