

Tips for Planning Demos

Step 1

Determine your goals

- > What scientific concepts do you want to cover?
- > Who is the audience (young kids, peers, general public)?
- > Is this demo the most effective and safe way to teach the concept?

Step 2

Get the logistics in order

- > Set a date and secure an appropriate location
- > Check space for exits, emergency equipment, and adequate distance from audience (>10 feet)
- > Order materials
- > Plan safe transportation for people, supplies, and safety equipment
- > Assign tasks and perform a risk assessment

Step 3

Practice the demo

- > Write a detailed procedure the way it will be performed
- > Review Safety Data Sheets, ACS hazard assessment tools, and past incidents to determine what could go wrong
- > Figure out tactics to minimize risk
- > Practice in front of a test audience

Safety Guidelines for Demos
acs.org/safety



Don't forget!

- > Keep 10 feet between demo and observers
- > Encourage audience participation
- > Warn audience of loud noises, potential spills, and other hazards
- > Dispose of waste appropriately
- > Clean demo site completely, wash hands

Flammable Demos Checklist

- ✓ Before demo, notify hosts, security, administrators, and fire department
- ✓ Handle flammable liquids safely
 - > Collect only needed amounts from stock bottles before the demo
 - > Keep bottles capped and stored away
 - > Never add flammable liquids after ignition to avoid flame jetting
- ✓ Appoint a safety officer to follow all fire safety measures (e.g., personal protective equipment, fire extinguisher, fire blanket, safety shower)