

Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Safety Checklist

(This is consistent with the Nationals)

Fire Hazards

- Operation of a flame, candle, torch, or any other heating device such as a hot plate.
- Excessive packing material is found under the table.

Electrical Hazards

- Two-pronged plugs without a ground are found on the display (3-pronged plugs are the only ones permitted)
- Modifications to CSA approved electrical equipment
- Wet cell batteries (dry cell batteries such as alkalines or NiCd are permitted)

*Electronic equipment created by participants can be used as long as they have:

- As low voltage as possible
- A non-combustible enclosure
- An insulating grommet at the point where the electrical service enters the enclosure
- Low electric current in case terminals are touched
- Pilot light to indicate when the power is on.

Biohazards

- Biological toxins
- Cell or tissue samples (include blood and blood products, except on sealed microscope slides, which may be displayed)
- Plants or plant tissue
- Soil containing organic material
- Cultures – (No Petri dishes, no Ziplocs with spores, etc.) – Photos are a good substitute

Images of Humans

- Displays must avoid sensational or offensive images

Animals and Animal Parts

- Live animals or micro-organisms

*Items naturally shed by an animal or parts properly prepared and preserved are permitted [eg: quills (safely contained), shed snake skin, feathers, tanned pelts and hides, antlers, hair samples, skeletons or skeletal parts]
Tissues are not permitted.

Firearms, Hazardous Materials, and Equipment

- Firearms, ammunition, dangerous goods, or explosives
- Images of humans or animals injured by firearms or explosives

*X-ray and radiation producing equipment may be displayed but NOT turned on.

Structural and Mechanical Safety

- Any structurally unsound backboard or display
- Sharp edges such as the corners of prisms, mirrors, glass, or metal plates that are not in a case
- Dangerous moving parts such as belts, gears, pulleys, and blades that are not in a guard
- Motors that do not contain safety shut-offs
- Pressurized vessels or compressed gas cylinders
- Moving exhibits (such as robots) that are using more than their allocated space

Chemical Safety

- Flammable, toxic or dangerous chemicals

*Any other chemical than water or table salt is strongly discouraged. Water can represent “simulated alcohol”. Salt (NaCl) can be used to simulate other powders. Write “simulated _____”. Molasses can be used to simulate petroleum products. Food colouring may also be used.]

- Prescription drugs or over the counter medications
- More than 1 litre of liquid being displayed

Any projects involving ethical issues must ideally be approved by the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair Committee before the project has started.