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## *SCIENCE SAFETY INITIATIVE*

### **INTRODUCTION**

In collaboration with the Exeter Region Cooperative School District, I have received a Science Initiative Grant from the New Hampshire department of Education. The objective of the state initiative is to analyze the status of safety in our science classrooms and to promote safety in our science classrooms. Based on the research, a New Hampshire Edition of the “Total Science Safety System Software” will be developed. The software will be a comprehensive safety program based on the needs of New Hampshire.

I will be working with Dr. Jack Kerlovich of Drake University, author of the science software, to customize the software for New Hampshire. In addition, workshops and training programs will be offered on science safety and on utilizing the software. The State of New Hampshire through the Science Initiative Grant has allocated \$75,000 for the project.

### **SUMMARY OF PROJECT**

Safety in academic science programs in this post September 11, 2001 era is more vital than ever. The purpose of this project is to gauge (through research studies and pilot testing of the National Science Safety Indexing Project) the status of safety in New Hampshire schools and science teacher understanding of applicable laws, codes, and professional standards as they relate to safety in academic settings. Based on this information, a committee composed of New Hampshire science educators kindergarten through higher education, strategic government agencies, and legal authorities, will work with experienced science safety professionals (academicians, researchers, technology education specialist, and practitioners) to develop the *New Hampshire Edition – Total Science Safety System CD-ROM* to address the identified New Hampshire specific safety needs as well as other national science safety needs. The CD will include strategic science safety research videos, weblinks, databases, audit tools, and administrator personal digital assistant (PDA) files to assist science educators in identifying and addressing safety concerns. Training programs will then be offered in multiple Professional Development Centers and/or Regional Staff Development sites in strategic areas of the state. Working with the advisory committee, reports will be prepared describing the entire process and results. Ideally these will be published and made available to the entire science education profession across the state and serve to help guide the National Science Safety Indexing Project. **An access point will also be created on the JaKel website providing updates to the CD for up to five years.**