

Right-to-Know - Work Area Specifics

1. Review location of **inventory** of hazardous materials and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). **Review MSDS.**
2. **Labels** – name, manufacturer, hazard warning (**Danger, Warning, Caution**). Danger is most hazardous, then warning, then caution.

Read and follow label instructions. *Never assume an unlabeled container is harmless.*

Color codes on labels: Blue (health) Red (flammability) Yellow (reactivity) White (special hazard like radiation) (*The higher the numbers the more hazardous, the more flammable, the more reactive.*)

- 0 – Minimum hazard
- 1- Slight hazard
- 2- Moderate hazard



- 3- Serious hazard
- 4- Severe hazard

3. **Chemical Hazard Classes:**

- **Corrosive** – can burn eyes or skin or lungs if inhaled
Examples: acids (phosphoric acid, hydrochloric acid) bases (ammonium hydroxide, lime, sodium bicarbonate)
Safe handling: keep acid and bases separate, good ventilation, use PPE (i.e. safety glasses/goggles, face shield, gloves) **Always wear safety goggles when mixing or pouring corrosives.**
- **Flammable** – will burn
Examples: alcohols, gasoline, acetone, propane, hexane, toluene
Safe handling: eliminate all sources of flame, heat and cover containers
- **Reactive** – can burn explode or release toxic vapor if exposed to other chemicals, heat or water
Examples: Bleaches, peroxides, chromic acid, sodium metals, perchloric acid, halogens
Safe handling: Use PPE (i.e. safety glasses/goggles, face shield, gloves), Check MSDS for reactivity
- **Toxic** – can cause illness or injury (skin irritations, headaches, dizziness, nausea, etc.)
Examples: thinners, adhesives, solvents, freons, alcohols, acetone, particulates like asbestos, metal fumes and dust, lubricants, coolants, cutting oils, epoxies, polyurethanes, isocyanates
Safe handling: minimize contact, use PPE (i.e. safety glasses/goggles, face shield, gloves), good ventilation

4 **Emergencies:**

- Eye/skin contact – flush with water for 15 minutes, if on skin remove clothing first
- Inhaled – move to fresh air
- Swallowed – call poison control, do not induce vomiting unless indicated on MSDS or label
- Spills –
 - clean up small spill if low hazard and you use PPE,
 - if large, contact supervisor; if you can safely, try to prevent spill from continuing, keep others away
- Asbestos – if you have a question about a possible asbestos containing material, contact your supervisor.

5. **Physical Hazards:**

- **Noise**

Examples: Scrubber, Mowers, Generator Rooms, Saws

Protection: earplugs, muffs

- **Heat** (*We have tested buildings, not heat stress in summer- uncomfortable yes, but not exceeding OSHA limits*)

Examples: outside work in summer

Protection: appropriate clothing, water, breaks in cool area or shade

- **Radiation**

Examples: Non-ionizing radiation – microwave ovens (*damaged or broken oven*), broken fiber optic cables, welding

Protection: don't look directly at break in broken fiber optic cables, report broken microwaves

6. **Infectious Agents:** includes bloodborne pathogens, however, if blood is dry, not considered infectious; no “routine” exposure like in healthcare.

7. **Employee Right-to-Know Quiz**

Acknowledgement

I have had the opportunity to ask my supervisor questions concerning my safety in the workplace and all of the above topics have been explained to my satisfaction.

Employee signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I have instructed the employee on all of the above identified safety elements and have addressed all questions asked.

Supervisor signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Return completed copy to:

Safety Administrator
Centennial Office Building, HR Office, Fax # 651-296-0579

