

HAZARD COMMUNICATION (HAZ-COM)

OBJECTIVES

- Staff will learn safety handling procedures when working with or around hazardous chemicals
- Staff will learn how to interpret a “Material Safety Data Sheets” (MSDS)

More than 30 million workers are potentially exposed to one or more hazardous chemicals. According to the US Department of Labor, there are an estimated 650,000 hazardous chemical products, and hundreds of new ones being introduced annually. This poses a serious problem for exposed workers and employers.

Compulsory to OSHA’s Haz Com Standard, employers must protect workers from these exposures and provide effective training to employees exposed to hazardous chemicals. OSHA’s standard is based on a single concept, employees have a right to know the hazards and the identities of the chemicals they are exposed too while working.

CONTAINER LABELING

Every hazardous chemical container should be properly labeled with all necessary hazard information. This includes every type of container from a 5000 gallon storage tank to a spray bottle of cleaner in the office.

- All containers must have a label, tag, or marking that indicates any safety or health hazard.
- All warning labels, tags, etc., must be maintained in a legible condition.

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS (MSDS)

The basic source of information about the safety precautions and health affects of working with hazardous chemicals is found on MSDS. Current MSDS must be available to every employee at all times while on the job. MSDS are provided by the chemical manufacture to provide additional information concerning safe use of the product, precautionary measures, and safe handling and disposal procedures. Each MSDS provides the following information:

- Product Information
 - Common name and chemical name of the material
 - Name, address and phone number of the manufacture
 - Emergency phone numbers for immediate hazard information

- Hazardous Ingredients
 - Identifies the hazardous components of the product
 - Chemical hazards of the material
 - OSHA's permissible exposure limits (PEL) and threshold limit value (TLV)

- Physical Data
 - Describes the product's appearance and odor, and health, physical, and environmental hazards

- Fire and Explosion Data
 - This section describes fire and explosion properties of the product
 - Material flash point, auto ignition temperature and upper/lower flammable limits
 - Proper fire extinguishing agents to be used
 - Fire fighting techniques to be used
 - Any unusual fire or explosive hazards

- Chemical Reaction Information
 - Stability of chemical
 - Conditions and other materials which can cause reactions with the chemical
 - Dangerous substances that can be produced when the chemical reacts

- Health Hazard Information
 - This section includes the health affects of exposure
 - Emergency and first aid procedures
 - Main routes of entry into the body
 - Medical conditions that can be made worse by exposure
 - Cancer causing properties if any

- Exposure Control Measures
 - Engineering controls required for safe product use
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) required for use of the product
 - Safe storage requirements and guidelines
 - Safe handling procedures

- Chemical health hazards
 - Permissible Exposure Limits (PPL) and Threshold Limit Value (TLV)
 - Acute or chronic symptoms of exposure
 - Emergency and first aid treatments

- Spill and Leak Procedures
 - Clean up techniques
 - Personal protective equipment to be used during clean up
 - Disposal of waste and clean up material

Review the attached MSDS with employees. Each employee should know how to read an MSDS upon completion of this section.

GENERAL CHEMICAL SAFETY

Use the following safety precautions when working with chemicals:

- Read Material Safety Data Sheets for every product used or encountered
- Keep work area clean and orderly
- Use necessary safety equipment
- Label every container with the identity of its contents and appropriate hazard warnings
- Store incompatible chemicals in separate areas
- Substitute chemicals with less toxic materials whenever possible
- Limit the volume of volatile or flammable to the minimum needed
- Provide means of containing the material if containers should break or spill their contents
- If you have questions or concerns at any time, consult with Immediate supervisor

CHEMICAL STORAGE

The separation of chemicals (liquids or solids) during storage is necessary to reduce the possibility of unwanted chemical reactions caused by accidental mixing. If uncertain about a chemical's reactivity to other chemicals consult the appropriate MSDS. Use either distance or barriers to isolate chemicals into the following groups:

- Flammable liquids (place in approved fire lockers)
- Acids
- Bases
- Other liquids

EMERGENCIES

In case of emergency, implement the county's Emergency Action Plan.

- Evacuate people from the area
- Isolate the area
- If the material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources
- Call for HAZMAT Team assistance if required

POLICY

Review the all policies and procedures related to Haz Com and chemical safety.

CLOSING

- Encourage discussion about the presentation and working with hazardous chemicals safely. Discuss examples of chemicals used and past or recent exposures, and MSDS locations.
- *Upon completion, staff will inspect work areas for hazardous materials and ensure that current MSDS are available*