

HAZARD ALERT

CPWR 
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

A Guide to Symbols



Danger!

Not following warning labels can be hazardous to your health and the health of those around you.

Products containing hazardous chemicals can cause severe injuries or make you sick.

They can also kill you.

Warning labels are worthless if you don't read or understand them.

OSHA has adopted a standardized system of labeling to help you identify hazards.

Make sure you know what to look for and what the symbols mean.



Your employer is required to...

- ▶ **Train you** about the Hazard Communication Standard and chemical hazards you will be exposed to on the job.
- ▶ Give you access to **Safety Data Sheets** for hazardous products on your worksite.
- ▶ Have a **written hazard communication program**.
- ▶ **Protect you** from exposure to hazardous products, even those used by other employers on your worksite.

Why should you care about this?

- ▶ **Thousands of workers die** each year from work-related exposure to chemicals.*

*Source: OSHA. Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers. www.osha.gov/dsg/safer_chemicals/

Recognize the Symbols



Flame

A gas, liquid or solid product that can burst into flame.

Some can catch fire...

- Without air
- When heated
- When coming into contact with water.



Exploding Bomb

These products are **explosive-like dynamite**. They can be a liquid or solid.



Exclamation Point

These products can **hurt you** if they are breathed in or swallowed. They can irritate your eyes and skin, and make it hard to breathe. Some products can make you dizzy or sleepy.



Health Hazard

These products can **seriously damage your health**. They can...

- Cause cancer
- Damage organs
- Negatively affect fertility and unborn children
- Kill you if swallowed



Flame Over Circle

The ring or "O" stands for oxidizer. Products that are oxidizers are not flammable.

Oxidizers cause other materials to burst into flame.



Gas Cylinder

This means the container holds **gases under pressure**. If the container is damaged, the gas can

be released, causing a fire or explosion. The container can act like a missile when it explodes and injure people in its path. If the gas is poisonous it can make you or others nearby sick or worse.



Danger

These products are **poisonous**. They can make you very sick or kill you.



Corrosion

These products can **damage your skin**, causing redness, burns, blisters, and dermatitis. They can also damage your eyes.

If you think you are in danger:

Contact your supervisor.
Contact your union.
Call OSHA

1-800-321-6742

Keep this card as a guide to the symbols and what they mean.

Find out more about construction hazards.

To receive copies of this Hazard Alert and cards on other topics

call **301-578-8500** or
email cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com

CPWR 
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

8484 Georgia Avenue
Suite 1000
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301-578-8500
www.cpwr.com