

# HAZARD ALERT



# 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/](http://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.



### Explosion 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**



8484 Georgia Avenue  
Suite 1000  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-578-8500  
[www.cpwr.com](http://www.cpwr.com)