

The NFPA Diamond



Each section contains a number, 0 (no hazard) to 4 (most severe hazard).

Common Pictograms



Flammable



Oxidizer



Corrosive



Fatal/Toxic



Compressed Gas



Explosive



Health Hazards



Irritant



Environmental



HAZCOM

Chemical Safety

Have you or a loved one been exposed to Dihydrogen Monoxide?

From water to sulfuric acid, to the caffeine in coffee, almost everything around us is made of chemicals. Many are perfectly harmless. But, many are extremely harmful; either by themselves or when mixed with other chemicals.

Unfortunately, identifying the harmful chemicals from the safe ones can be challenging. For example, benzene is nearly colorless and has a sweet, pleasant smell. However, it is highly volatile and flammable and is known to cause cancer. Additionally, some chemicals require neutralizing before cleaning up, and some cannot be mixed with water. Some are harmless if they contact your skin and some are deadly. So, how do you know when PPE is required, how to clean up a spill, and what to do when you've been exposed to a chemical?

OSHA uses the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for HAZCOM. This system is standardized across most of the developed world. Every chemical has a corresponding Safety Data Sheet (SDS), and the chemical container must display specific information to help you readily identify the hazards.

SDS – Formerly called the MSDS, the new SDS is a fact sheet developed by the manufacturer that contains information on all of the hazards associated with the chemical. It also provides guidance on how to protect yourself from these hazards as well as emergency information/procedures in the event of an incident.

Labeling – OSHA requires that all chemical containers have certain information:

- A pictogram that gives you an idea of the hazard (see the picture above)
- Action words; "DANGER."
- Hazard statement; "Causes kidney failure."
- Precautions; "Do NOT Breathe."
- Supplier Information

Additional Information, such as the NFPA diamond (Blue, red, yellow, & white) or HAZMAT diamonds may be included.

Whenever you work with, or around chemicals that you are unfamiliar with, take a minute to read through the SDS and container label. This information could save your, or a coworker's life.

(Dihydrogen Monoxide is also known as water).

Contact Safe Workforce
for all of your safety and
training needs!