Hazard Communication

How to Work Safely with Flammables and Combustibles

Imagine how you would feel if something you did caused an explosion at work that caused the death of a co-worker. It's a frightening thought. However, it's something that can be avoided if you know how to work safely with chemicals.

Let's Start with the Basics

Not all chemicals are the same. They have different properties. But each one can be dangerous if you don't know about the hazards. Some hazardous chemicals can cause irritations and burns to the skin as well as other harmful physical effects.

Many companies have selected the approved PPE that all employees are required to wear. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be used in conjunction with other efforts to eliminate hazards such as engineering controls, guards, and safe work practices. Remember, using the right PPE could save your life.

Labels

How do you know if a chemical is potentially dangerous? Look at the label. Labels can tell you a lot about a chemical product.

Such as:

- Identity of the material
- Appropriate hazard warnings
- Name and address of the manufacturer
- How to use the product
- Storage and disposal information
- And sometimes first aid measures

Safety Data Sheets

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) is a document produced by the chemical manufacturer. Each SDS has information on specific chemicals. They tell you who made the product and how they can be reached.

The SDS can give you important information such as:

- Potential hazards
- Flammability
- Physical and chemical characteristics
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment
- Exposure information
- How it should be stored
- Firefighting instructions
- First Aid measures
- Spill and cleanup measures
- Disposal instructions

Additional Information

When you arrive at a jobsite one of the first things you should do is:

- Find out the location of the jobsite SDS book. Each jobsite should have one.
- Find out where chemicals are stored
- Find out where the smoking areas are located. Sparks from cigarettes can lead to a fire.

You should never use plastic or glass jugs, bottles or buckets. Open containers can spill, glass can break and some chemicals can melt plastic. Use only approved containers for the chemical you are using. Be aware of the fumes and vapors that are escaping in the vicinity of co-workers and ignition sources.

Good housekeeping is essential around chemicals. The area around where they are stored and being used must be kept clean. If something bad happens, poor housekeeping can delay fire suppression and rescue operations and help to spread a fire or chemical to other areas.

By simply reading the labels we can go a long way to making our jobsites safe for everyone.

Date:	Company Name:		
Project Number/Name:	Meeting Location:	Person Conducting Meeting:	

Items Discussed:

_____
_____
_____

Problem Areas or Concern:

_____
_____
_____
_____

CREW SIGN-OFF

Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Crew Members: _____
Crew Members: _____
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