

HAZARD ALERT

CPWR [O]
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

A GUIDE TO NEW SYMBOLS



Danger!

Confusion can be hazardous to your health.

Products with hazardous chemicals can cause severe injuries and can damage your skin or internal organs.

Or they can kill you.

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

OSHA has adopted a new standardized system of labeling.

Some of these new labels are on the job now.



Your employer is responsible for ...

- **Training you** about chemical hazards you are exposed to.
- Giving you access to **Safety Data Sheets** about hazardous products on your worksite.
- Creating a **written program** with a list of hazardous chemicals on your site.
- Protecting you from exposures to all **hazardous products, even those used by other employers** on your site.

Why should you care about this?

- **More than 50,000 U.S. workers die** every year from work-related diseases due to chemical exposures.

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

Our New Symbols



Severe Danger To Your Health. Can cause or increase **incidence of cancer**. Can harm specific organs. Can cause adverse

effects on **sexual function and fertility** in men and women – and on developing offspring. Can **change your genes** and can pass along changes to offspring.



“Corrosive” – irreversible damage to the skin after being on the skin for up to 4 hours. Skin will show ulcers, bleeding, bloody

scabs. After two weeks, skin discoloration, loss of hair and scars.



Remember the ring and think “O” – an oxidizer. Either liquid or solid, an “oxidizer” can **cause another material to combust or burn**. The

product itself is not flammable.



An explosive – like dynamite – in liquid or solid form. Some chemicals can explode, even without air. Others

produce gas at such pressure, temperature and speed that the explosion can cause damage to the surrounding area.



Gases under pressure.



“!” is “Harmful to Your Health!” Some products are **harmful if swallowed**. Others are **harmful if inhaled**. A product can

irritate the skin and **cause an allergic reaction after skin contact**. Some products can cause drowsiness or loss of reflexes. Others cause dizziness, headaches and nausea. **Lungs can be affected:** coughing, pain, choking and breathing difficulties.



DANGER – Severe toxicity. A poison.



A gas, liquid or solid product that can **burst into flames**. Some are unstable and can explode even without air.

Some solid or liquid products can “self-heat” and explode. Others will ignite only when in large amounts after hours or days.

Find out more about construction hazards.

Get more of these Hazard Alert cards – and cards on other topics.

Call 301-578-8500

If you think you are in danger:

Contact your supervisor. Contact your union.

Call OSHA
1-800-321-OSHA