

# HAZARD ALERT

CPWR  
THE CENTERS FOR CONSTRUCTION  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

# HAZARD COMMUNICATION

## A GUIDE TO NEW SYMBOLS

HF&C  
HAYLOR, FREYER & COON<sup>INC.</sup>  
Insuring All You Value

## 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**