

LIFE SAVING RULES

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

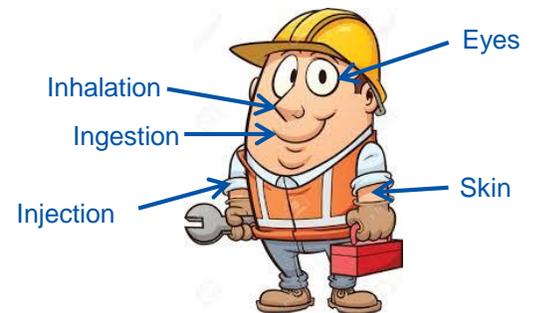
- I will never handle or work with materials for which I have not been trained.
- I will always wear the required personal protective equipment when working with chemicals.
- I will report any spills or exposure to hazardous materials immediately.
- I will flush eyes and skin immediately upon accidental contact or splashing for at least 20 minutes, unless otherwise instructed.
- I will identify the location of the nearest eyewash station and shower when working with hazardous materials and maintain clear access to all emergency equipment.



“ I will take actions to prevent exposure to hazardous materials. ”

What is Chemical Exposure?

Everything is made of chemicals including the food we eat, the water we drink, the clothes we wear and the products we use daily. Chemical Exposure refers to an adverse reaction to skin contact, breathing, or ingestion of a hazardous chemical (see figure to the right). It is not only the type of material that matters, but the amount, or “dose”, that you are exposed to. In fact, there are already chemicals in our body that we need to live, but which can become harmful at higher levels. The goal is to minimize exposure to safe levels, and to recognize when over-exposure may be happening.



In addition to potentially making you sick, hazardous chemicals can cause harm in other ways. Flammable liquids and gases can catch fire or explode causing serious burn to your skin. Hazardous materials can be especially damaging to your eyes and can cause potential blindness.

Avoiding Chemical Exposure and Preventing Accidents

- **ALWAYS wear your assigned personal protective equipment (PPE)!**
- Always check the GHS/HazCom label before handling, dispensing or using any chemical or other hazardous material.
- Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) when you are using the chemical or material for the first time. Always follow the guidance and instructions in the SDS.
- If there is no label or if you are unsure of the exact contents of a container – do not touch! Contact your supervisor for instruction on how to handle safely.
- Use an abundance of caution when handling flammable liquids. Only store in and dispense from approved containers – and always away from heat or potential ignition sources.
- Replace PPE when torn, damaged or soiled. Wear face shields when a splash hazard is present.
- Remove all soiled PPE when taking a break and thoroughly wash hands and arms, especially before eating or drinking.

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Signs of Hazardous Material Exposure

You may have been exposed to Hazardous material if you:

- You are experiencing dizziness or shortness of breath; start to cough or develop a headache.
- You experience tearing, burning or vision changes if the **chemical** gets into your eyes.
- Your skin becomes dried, appears white or red, swelled, blistered or appears as a rash, or **burns**. There is pain or numbness at the site of contact. If in pain, burning or blistering notify your supervisor immediately.

Remember that a chemical burn may develop later when you are at home. If you develop a blister or pain notify your supervisor and seek medical attention.

Responding to Hazardous Material Exposure

Flush exposed area for a *minimum 20 minutes*, at sink, eyewash or shower.

Make sure you know the location of the emergency shower and eyewash station and become familiar with how to operate **BEFORE** you may need it.

DO NOT

- Wait for an exposure to burn/react/itch before flushing.
- Do not use “burn creams,” or antibiotic ointments on chemical burns without the assistance of a medical professional or person trained in first aid. Such treatments may make the exposure worse if not properly selected and/or administered.



Group Activity:

Ask each employee to identify 2-3 hazardous materials used in their work area. Identify the required PPE to protect against exposure and the closest eyewash and shower station to the area where the hazardous materials are being used.

Hazardous Material

Required PPE

Closest Eyewash or Shower

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