



# Hanover County Safety & Risk Focus

Happy Safety & Risk Friday (#SafetyFriday)! This week's short subject centers on Chemical Handling & Storage

## Safety & Risk Tip of the Week:

Chemicals play an important role in our everyday lives, both in and out of the work environment. Chemicals that we may be commonly exposed to include corrosives, solvents, flammables, combustible materials and other chemical substances event down to the container of glass cleaner you use at home! They all can be potentially dangerous, but they needn't be harmful when they are handled, stored and disposed of safely.

The good news is that you can protect yourself from chemical hazards by following a few common safety & health best practices when working with chemicals both at work & at home:

- Read container labels, Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and any safe work instructions before handling the chemical. They will list safe handling procedures. SDSs are available for a wide variety of products, including household supplies! They can be accessed by the material manufacturer's website or by contacting the manufacturer and requesting one.
- Always make sure that what you are about to use has a proper label. If the label is missing or damage, do not use the product! You should assume that you do not know what the product is or what impacts it could have if used improperly. Unlabeled materials should be removed and disposed of properly.
- Use appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) when working with chemicals. It is important to make sure the PPE selected fits properly, is the correct type of PPE based on the chemical being used, that you know how to use the PPE selected and that it has been inspected prior to use and no defect has been found.
- Make sure to utilize, make sure you use the correct canister for the particular chemical and replace it when necessary.
- Know the location of and how to use the eyewash station, safety showers and spill control stations/materials if necessary.
- Make sure to use chemicals in an outdoor or well-ventilated location and store chemicals in a safe location according to the manufacturers recommendations once you are no longer using them.
- Always wash your hands after us of any chemical, especially before eating or drinking to prevent accidental ingestion of chemical residues that may be present on hands or skin.
- If you have been exposed to a chemical through contact, ingestion, inhalation or with contact with an open wound, you should always reference the chemical label or SDS to determine what first aid measures are necessary. Do not treat a chemical exposure without knowing the proper actions to take to prevent further injury to you, a co-work or loved one.
- If exposure is causing you to feel ill or you have suffered an injury due to contact, seek medical guidance as quickly as possible by contacting 911. Poison Control is also available to be contacted in the event that a chemical has been ingested.

When working with chemicals, you can never be too careful! Use these tips every time you use chemicals, no matter how small, to stay safe & healthy every day!

## Safety & Risk Resource Spotlight:

- **SDS Mobile:** KHA online offers a mobile application that gives the user access to thousands of current Safety Data Sheets for a wide variety of chemicals used both in the work environment and in the home. **SDS Mobile is available in the Apple App Store and through Google Play for download and is an excellent quick reference resource for Chemical Safety!**

## Did you know?

- It is estimated that, annually, 13 Million people are treated for inadvertent exposure to hazardous chemicals. The primary route of exposure in most cases is due to inhalation

## Safety & Risk Observances:

- [Lyme Disease Awareness Month](#)
- [Skin Cancer Awareness Month](#)

Resources for awareness on both topics can be accessed on the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health Website (Links provided).