



Hanover County Safety & Risk Management Communication

Happy Safety & Risk Friday (#SafetyFriday)! This week's short subject centers on Chemical Handling & Storage – Chemical Labeling (Part 2 of 3)!

Safety & Risk Tip of the Week:

Labels on chemicals are your first line of defense to know what you are using and what, if any, special precautions or PPE should be used. Many chemicals and other substances are hazardous if not used properly. You can be safe if you know which are hazardous, what the hazards are, and how to work with them safely. You can detect many of these hazards by reading the labels.

Every container of hazardous material has a label—a good place to start. The OSHA Hazard Communication standard requires that chemical manufacturers label materials with the following information:

- A harmonized signal word,
- Pictogram,
- Hazard statement for each hazard class and category.
- Precautionary statements must also be provided.

Container labels may also include supplementary information on how to protect yourself and provisions for basic first aid if exposed. Remember the following important guidelines:

- Every container should have a label. **DON'T USE THE MATERIAL IF IT DOESN'T!**
- Report missing or illegible labels.
- Even portable containers should have labels. For portable containers, NFPA 704 or the Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS) labeling are acceptable and reliable methods for properly labeling secondary containers.
- Always read & understand labels before using.
- Always follow the instructions on labels.
- Ask your supervisor if you don't understand the information and/or seek out a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for the material to review.

The label doesn't tell everything, but it's a good starting point—read it first!

Safety & Risk Resource Spotlight:

- **Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG):** the US Department of Transportation Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Administration offers a mobile application that gives the user access to the latest version of the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG 2020). This book provides the user information on a wide range of hazardous chemicals, including the general hazards they pose, recommended safety precautions & emergency response information. This reference is used primarily for emergency response for public safety organizations, but can be an additional resource to help supplement Safety Data Sheet information as well. **ERG Mobile is available in the Apple App Store and through Google Play for download!**

Did you know?

The top five chemicals associated with injury were carbon monoxide (2,364), ammonia (1,153), chlorine (763), hydrochloric acid (326), and sulfuric acid (318).



Safety & Risk Observances:

- [National Heat Safety Week](#)

Resources for awareness on this topic can be accessed on the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health Website.

